

HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, November 6, 2014

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ROYAL VISIT

Black Country welcome for Her Majesty



PAGE 6

STAR ROLES

Newly-weds together in musical show



PAGE 24

Works to solve flood problems completed

A £400,000 project to prevent sewers from flooding in a road in Halesowen has been completed.

Severn Trent Water have installed 500 metres of new sewer pipes to prevent the flooding in the Hurst Green area of the town.

The work had led to parts of Hurst Green Park being sealed off while the work was being carried out for Severn Trent Water.

The project started in April 2014 and was completed last month.

Investment

Gareth Mead, from Severn Trent Water, said: "Sometimes in the past when there's been heavy rain, the sewers in the area have struggled to cope with the extra water. This has meant several homes were affected by sewer flooding."

"These new sewers are a significant and important investment, which will help to stop this from happening again."

"They'll also improve local drainage and protect the environment better, by helping to prevent pollution from overfilling sewers."

He added: "This kind of work can be disruptive, so we'd like to thank everyone for their understanding and patience during the work."

Festive lights countdown

THE Halesowen Christmas lights will be officially switched on at an event next Saturday.

Dudley Council with Halesowen Chamber of Trade and Cornbow Shopping Centre will stage the event on November 15.

From 11am shoppers will be able to listen to enjoy fair rides in the High Street and live entertainment including music at the top of Hagley Street, culminating with a countdown before the lights are switched on at 5pm.

TOWN CARNIVAL TO BE REVIVED

Services planned to mark Poppy Day

A DATE has been set for the revival of Halesowen's carnival and parade after nearly 30 years without the once popular town event.

New committee members have come on board to help boost plans for a revived carnival to take place in Halesowen next summer.

Plans are gathering pace behind the project to host the first Halesowen Carnival and parade in 29 years. Organisers have set a date, July 4 2015, for the event.

The annual carnival was a highlight in the calendar for thousands in its heyday.

Event organiser Simon Walker says he had been boosted by three new committed members signing up in recent days.

Funded

It comes as a business plan is being finalised to show how the carnival will be funded.

This will be used to source the cash which will be needed to run the event. Various companies and public bodies will be approached in the coming weeks.

Early plans for the make-up of the festival are taking shape including the revival of the once popular parade through the town.

The parade accompanied the festival over the years and organisers say it is a crucial part of returning the event to its glory days.

Group members were being assigned roles at a meeting of the committee on Saturday in the town centre.

Committee chairman Simon Walker says the group is appealing for help with funding the event, which is scheduled to take place in Huntingtree Park.

Mr Walker said: "I'm pleased that we have been

By Andrew Turton

able to bring more people on the committee. It is really heartening to see people so enthusiastic about it.

"Halesowen is the jewel in the crown for the area.

"The meeting was also about working on discussing quotes for everything."

He added: "We really want to get more people involved — so we are always looking for people to help us."

Mr Walker asked anyone keen to sign up to contact the committee by searching for Halesowen Carnival 2015 on Facebook.

Halesowen Councillor Stuart Henley said: "We need more people on board as it is a relatively short time until the carnival takes place.

"But it has to take place now. The people (of Halesowen) really want it."

It would be the first time that a carnival and street parade had taken place in the town since 1986.

Campaigners want to link the event with the new Black Country Day festival.

In a nod to its history, organisers have also pledged to hold the event in honour of well known Black Country comic Tommy Munden. The much-loved comedian died earlier this year, aged 80.

Comic with character ready to break out



Comedian Andrew McBurney won the Birmingham Comedy Festival Breaking Talent Award

COMIC Andrew McBurney has got his sights set on the big time after scooping an award for best breaking talent at Birmingham Comedy Festival.

Mr McBurney, from Cradley Heath, began getting into comedy around three years ago.

"It was me and a few other friends," he said. "I said 'you know all these things talk about when we're on our own, why don't we film them?' We started making our own sketches and it went from there."

"Just after, a girl I had been with for about eight years left me, and from that I made my first sketch which was about a guy who had been dumped trying to make himself feel better."

He first took his show to an open mic night at the Holly Bush pub in Cradley Heath.

"People actually really liked it so I kept doing it," Mr McBurney said. "I have expanded into other characters now."

Mr McBurney was given the Breaking Talent award at the Glee Club in Birmingham last month by Jasper Carroll, who helped EDJUDGE the contest.

Mr McBurney, who moved to the Black Country 21 years ago from Glasgow, said he has toured the country with his act including a return to Scotland at the Edinburgh Festival.

He is now hoping to give up his T-shirt making job to become a full time comedian.

RESIDENTS and members of the Royal British Legion will come together to mark Remembrance Day at a series of events taking place across the borough on Sunday.

In Dudley, hundreds of people are expected at the cenotaph in Ednam Road, Dudley, from 10.40am.

Unified organisations can also take part in the parade by meeting in Vicar Street for 10.15am.

There will also be a gathering at war memorial at Grangebrook Park, off Grangebrook Road and New Road, for a service from 9am on Sunday.

Members of Quarry Bank Legion will meet at Christ Church, in High Street, Quarry Bank, at 10.30am and then will go to the war memorial in nearby Stevens Park.

Residents are asked to meet in Somers Square for the Halesowen parade on Sunday from 10.15am. They will continue onto the cenotaph for 10.40am before a service at Halesowen Parish Church.

In Stourbridge, there will be a service in Mary Stevens Park. People are asked to gather by the council offices in the park at 10.30am. Colley Gate Legion will meet in Colley Lane at 2.30pm and parade to St Peter's Church.

Church team in centre bid

PARTHIONERS of a church which had to close are to open a community centre in a Cradley Heath shop.

St Luke's Church closed after almost 170 years of worship due to repair costs of about £750,000 and moved to St John's Church, Dudley Wood, after a final service last month.

Parishioners want to continue their community work in the area and have revealed plans for the centre in High Street.

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Extra park and ride car spaces at station

MORE than 200 free parking spaces are being created at a busy railway station in a £900,000 scheme to ease parking problems.

An extra 223 spaces are being added to Stourbridge Junction station, on top of the existing 789 spaces already on site.

Public transport authority Centro is carrying out the work to ease overcrowding at the station in Brook Road, Oldswinford, where the car park often fills up before the end of the morning rush hour.

Councillor Mohammed Hanif, who represents Dudley Council on Centro, said the extension would also make life easier for commuters and residents.

He said: "This work is not only good news for commuters but also for residents in the surrounding streets. They have told me how they have been inconvenienced by commuters parking outside their homes so this extension should help address that issue."

Centro rail boss Councilor Roger Horton said free park-and-ride sites, such as Stourbridge Junction, played an important role in attracting thousands of motorists to make their main daily commute by train.

Open days at college

HALESOWEN College's Whittingham Road Campus hosts open days tomorrow (Friday) and on Saturday.

From 4 to 8pm tomorrow and 10am to 4pm Saturday, prospective students can find out more about the extensive range of courses on offer and see the college's modern facilities.

Along with highlighting the range of courses for 16 to 19-year-olds, the college is promoting its accessibility for students with disabilities. There will be a chance to meet silver medal winning Paralympic archer Mel Clarke.

Hurt in horse fall

A WOMAN who fell off a horse in a lane near Stourbridge had to be rescued by a specialist 4x4.

The 45-year-old suffered concussion and bruising to her ribs in Waystone Lane, Belbroughton. The accident happened at 3pm on October 27.

Men caught when moving cannabis plants

THREE men caught by police dismantling a £69,000 cannabis factory have been jailed.

Wayne Gloster, Joseph Foster and Alexander Bills were jailed after they were found removing more than 170 cannabis plants from a property in Hurst Green Road in Halesowen on July 24 last year.

A fourth defendant Michael Smith was given a suspended sentence.

Wolverhampton Crown Court was told last week that an agent had been sent to the house to carry out an inspection, but was refused access and the police were then called.

Mr Simon Warlock, prosecuting, said: "When the police attended, various items were being loaded into a Mercedes van driven by Mr Smith and a Ford Transit driven by Mr Gloster. This included 173 cannabis plants and electrical equipment."

Gloster's van was tracked to the Birmingham New Road in Dudley. It was cornered by police but this didn't stop the 39-year-old from trying to escape.

Mr Warlock said: "Mr Gloster then drove at the police officer who had put his hand to stop the defendant from getting away. He mounted a grass verge to try and escape,

but a slip road was fortunately blocked by police."

Police searched the house in Halesowen and found evidence of a cannabis factory. There were plastic sheets, windows taped up and remnants of cannabis on the floor.

Mr Warlock said: "It was typical of a sophisticated cannabis factory. Officers valued the cannabis at around £69,000."

In one of the vans they found 173 cannabis plants, compost and electrical wiring.

All four were arrested and pleaded guilty to possession of class B cannabis but with mitigating circumstances.

Mr Jas Mann, defending, said Foster, 35, had been promised £100 to carry out the work but didn't receive the money. Foster, of Trafalgar Court, Tividale, was handed a 39-week jail term.

Bills, aged 26, of Overbury Road, Northfield, Birmingham, was given 46 weeks in custody. Smith, 56, of Hawkstone Crescent, West Bromwich, was given a 39 week sentence suspended for two years and will be supervised for two years.

Gloster, of St Marks Road, Dudley, was jailed for two years and banned from driving for 24 months.

Thug jailed for two years after stabbing his partner

A THUG stabbed his partner in the arm as her one-year-old daughter slept nearby.

Miles Charters got involved in a row with the woman in the kitchen of her Cradley Heath home while cleaning a knife, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. The 27-year-old was still clutching it when he followed her upstairs where her three children were sleeping on April 20.

She grabbed hold of the blade, cutting the palm of her hand, and was knifed in the forearm when he pushed her onto the bed where the youngest girl slept.

Mr Gurdeep Garcha, prosecuting, said: "He had banged the head of the woman against the work surface in the kitchen and grabbed her hair."

Blood

"She went upstairs to get away from him, believing that he would not follow because of the children but he appeared in the bedroom holding the knife.

"She was scared for her life and grabbed at it. Then she put up her arm to protect herself after feeling the point of the blade against her face and received a substantial cut. She lost a lot of blood."

Charters stopped the attack after seeing the extent of the injury and offered to call for an ambulance. The victim ran to the house of a neighbour and was taken to hospital, where her wounds required 25 stitches. She is likely to be scarred for life.

Charters from Galton Road, Bearwood, who had several previous convictions involving violence against women, pleaded guilty to wounding and was sent to prison for two years by Recorder David Mason QC.

He also made an indeterminate restraining order banning Charters from making any contact with the victim.

Dance students put through their paces



Students learn from Unfold Dance Theatre director Laura Millward, in the vest top, during a masterclass

A PROFESSIONAL dance workshop

inspired them for their future choreography projects."

Mrs Sherratt, who has been teaching at the college for 11 years and has been course leader since 2006, said she has performed with Mrs Millward before.

Taster

Gemma Sherratt, course leader at Halesowen College, said: "It is a fantastic opportunity for the students to experience working with a professional local dance artist. Laura really inspired them for their future choreography projects."

"We were of course really grateful and more than happy to have her come in and teach the students."

She added: "I think it is definitely a good idea."

"It gives students a boost and helps develop their skills, especially their choreography, and helps them work on new styles."

Halesowen College has around 45 to 50 dance students across its BTEC First, BTEC Extended, and BTEC A Level dance courses.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Numbers soaring at leisure centres

A RECORD number of people visited leisure centres in Dudley last year which is a huge boost for healthy lifestyles say council bosses.

Over 1.2 million people headed through the doors of Dudley's three leisure centres between the 2013/14 period.

There were 579,061 visits made to Crystal Leisure Centre, whilst 269,808 were made to Dudley Leisure Centre. Almost 40,000 people visited Halesowen Leisure Centre.

The figures also revealed membership of their gyms soared from 600 to 3,871.

Three injured in fight outside club

THREE people were taken to hospital following a fight outside a nightclub in Brierley Hill in the early hours of Saturday.

Dudley Road was sealed off by police between Venture Street and Level Way during the disorder outside Pulse at around 5am.

Smashed glass was seen on the road and a plastic sheet covered an area of a car park nearby.

West Midlands Police said the injuries sustained by the three were not life threatening.

Gym in donation to mayor's charity

A GYM has donated over £400 to the Mayor of Dudley's charity fund.

Bosses at Unique Fitness in Castle Hill, Dudley, presented the mayor with a cheque for £414 for Action Heart Dudley, which is one of Councillor Margaret Aston's charities.

The ladies only gym is also planning to donate another cheque for the same amount to the Pensnett Panthers football team.

Fresh road name is 300 years old

THE name of a new road has a connection which goes back more than 300 years.

Laymoor Drive, off Tenlands Drive, Halesowen has been created as part of a development of nine homes.

The name was taken from land to the west which was on a map of Hasbury dated 1750.

Black Country talk

OLDBURY poet Billy Spake Mon, alias Brian Dakin, will be giving a talk on the role of the Black Country dialect at Kingswinford Library, Market Street, on Wednesday, November 12, at 2.30pm. Admission £3.

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



IF HS2 goes from London to Birmingham and HS3 from Leeds to Manchester, what next? A reader suggests HS4 to whisk MPs from the Commons to their free bars, and HS5 to take "out-of-touch politicians and greedy bankers" out of London and straight over the 500 ft cliff at Beachy Head.

NATIONAL Grid, facing a shortage of electricity, has warned it may have to reduce voltage, leading to "brown-outs" of dimmed bulbs this winter. In this age of dismal, low-energy bulbs, will anyone notice? Remember when a single 100 watt bulb filled your room with glorious light? Own up. How many of us are still sitting on stockpiles of wicked old, planet-killing 100-watters? By their bright homes shall ye know them.

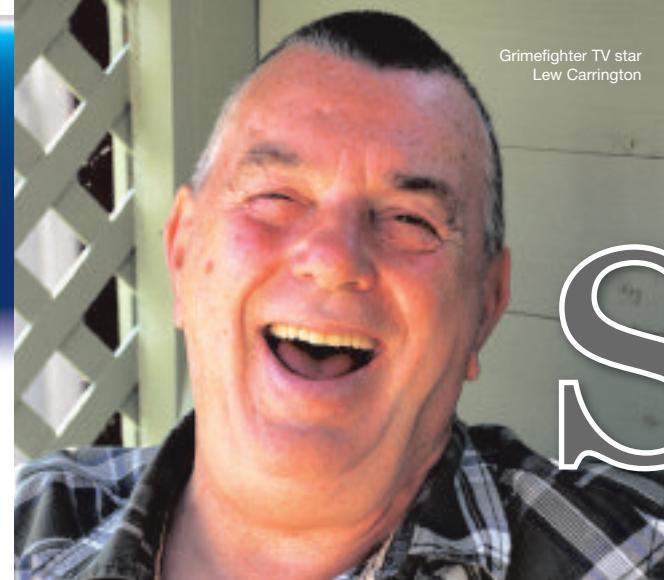
ON the Guardian website, of all places, someone emails: "Why should any man support a feminist movement?" He's commenting on David Cameron's refusal to wear a T-shirt with the logo: "This is what a feminist looks like." You can see the emailer's point. Feminism is about promoting the rights of women, which presumably could diminish the rights of us males. If working-class people who vote Tory are denounced as class traitors, isn't a man who supports feminism a gender-traitor?

IF you thought the commercialisation of law had gone far enough with driver-awareness courses, consider a recent case in Wolverhampton where eight men have been ordered to attend a "kerb crawlers" rehabilitation course." Both hands on the dashboard, Mr Jones.

A NEW super-computer means the Met Office will be able to give us 100 per cent accurate weather forecasts. And where's the fun in that?

STEPHEN Gough, the so-called "Naked Rambler," has lost his case at the European Court of Human Rights. The court ruled that the law "does not go so far as to enable individuals, even those sincerely convinced of the virtue of their own beliefs, to repeatedly impose their antisocial conduct on other, unwilling members of society." In other words, there is no human right to behave like a total prat.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star



LEWIS Carrington was born to be a star. A natural funnyman, he won the nation's hearts in the TV documentary Grimefighters. Known as Lew to his friends, he laughs easily as he recalls his brush with fame and as the unlikely adopted ambassador for the city of Wolverhampton.

Topping 1,500 members of his Grimefighters' Fan Club on social networking website Facebook, Lew had his supporters clamouring for him to appear in the New Year's Honours list.

Still a well-known character on the city streets four years after sharing his unique take on life before the cameras, Lew is now enjoying retirement from his life of grime

and a cameo appearance on Harry Hill's Get Toasted.

But hidden beneath the smiles and priceless one-liners, the jovial comic genius was struggling with another often-comedic subject - dentures.

And indirectly, the former environmental waste operative owes his celebrity status to an ill-fitting set of them. "I could have retired from the council earlier, but wanted to save enough money to get my problem fixed," says Lew.

Wife Gill adds: "He'd seen the stories in the papers about how other people had their problems sorted out and had also done a lot of internet research."

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Prison for brothers in terrifying sex attack

TWO brothers high on drink and drugs 'humiliated and degraded' a 19-year-old woman during a terrifying attack on a canal towpath.

A judge heard that the pair threatened to shoot and stab the petrified victim while taking it in turns to indecently assault her.

Wolverhampton Crown Court was told that she was eventually raped by Richard Cooper, aged 30. He was jailed for 11 years and three months, while his brother Peter, 22, received a four and a half year sentence for his role in her ordeal.

The woman was walking with an 18-year-old youth along the canal near Halesowen Cemetery when the brothers, who were both drunk and had taken the drug Ecstasy, struck late on January 3.

They asked for a cigarette before the encounter became 'sinister.'

Richard Cooper, of no fixed address, admitted rape while Peter from Eastfield Road, Horseley Fields pleaded guilty to indecent assault.

Judge Nicholas Webb told the brothers: "This was a joint humiliation and degradation of a young woman to whom both of you were complete strangers.

"She merely had the misfortune to encounter you late on this January evening. However, will she ever forget what you did to her?"

"She was demeaned and treated like a play thing as you took turns with her."

The Judge concluded that Peter Cooper might not have got involved had it not been for his brother but stressed that this would not spare him from jail.

Both men will be put on the sex offender register for life.

Cannabis farm next to shops



Pc Jemma Follows with the cannabis plants in Dudley

MORE than 1,000 cannabis plants with a total value of £500,000 have been seized following a police raid in Dudley town centre.

The cannabis farm was discovered in a disused shop opposite the Trident Shopping Centre in Wolverhampton Street. Two men were arrested in connection with the production of cannabis during the raid.

Acting on information provided by the public, eight officers from Dudley Local Policing Unit carried out the raid at around 8am on Monday.

Sergeant Rob Simpson said: "This is a substantial amount of cannabis which won't be hitting the streets of Dudley. This is a positive outcome for the local community."

Last week police seized 155 cannabis plants during a raid on a house in Halesowen following a tip-off from a member of the public. Drugs officers found that two rooms, including the loft space, had been turned over for the cultivation of cannabis. One person was arrested during the swoop at the house in Tenterfields.

HALESOWEN and Rowley Regis MP James Morris is giving residents the chance to quiz him at a meeting which is taking place tomorrow (Friday).

The MP is holding an Ask James event at Four Ways Baptist Church, Cradley Heath, as he attempts to battle the spin and media management which has become the norm in politics.

Residents will be invited to ask him questions on the issues that are important to them at the event.

Listening

Mr Morris said: "Internet and social media campaigns get a lot of attention but nothing can beat meeting people face-to-face, listening to their views and concerns, and giving them the straight answers they deserve."

"This is a return to old-style public meetings where anybody can come along and ask their MP about whatever national or local issues are on their mind without spin-doctors, advisers or party lines-to-take."

"I can't promise that we will agree on every subject raised. But I can promise that I will do my best to answer questions fully and honestly so that people can make up their own minds."

The session is from 7pm onwards and is open to anyone living in the constituency covered by Mr Morris.

Come and meet our dentist Polly

As part of improvements for the patient experience at North Street a general dentistry practice works alongside the denture prescribing team.

"This one-stop service has always been the case, but people are still finding out about North Street Dental Clinic," said principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC108353. Dental surgeon Polly (GDC No 188090), a Doctor of Dental Medicine with a particular interest in restorative, cosmetic and paediatric fields, looks after the patients. She joined the

team in Dudley after working in Michigan at one of America's most prestigious cosmetic dental centres.

A dental plan practice, it offers everything from a simple filling to complex restorative procedures and implant dentistry. Initial consultations are complimentary.

North Street Dental Clinic



Star quality

Lew gets last laugh with failing teeth

"My top denture wasn't too bad, but the lower moved all around with eating and laughing was risky. I'd had the trouble for years - every time I'd have a bit of tough steak, I was done for."

"I was a bit apprehensive, but I need not have been. I had two implants to stabilise my lower denture and I never felt a thing. I expected a lot of discomfort, but after a couple of days I was absolutely fine."

"Steve made me the over-dentures for the bottom and a new top set of teeth. They are absolutely great. Nothing was too much trouble for any of the friendly staff and going to see Steve was a pleasure."

"Going to the dentist had never been

so good and I am over the moon with the results."

On his star role in Grimefighters, Lew recalls: "There were some funny moments. We'd had a call to pick up a dead cat in Penfields. They said the animal was on the end of a drive. I looked everywhere and couldn't see it."

"There was a charity collection going on in the road where people had left clothing in bags for pick up. By the time I'd found out that the cat had been put into one of them, it had been collected by the charity and the van was disappearing down the road."

"Somebody was going to get a surprise," adds Lew with a wry smile.

and a cameo appearance on Harry Hill's Get Toasted.

But hidden beneath the smiles and priceless one-liners, the jovial comic genius was struggling with another often-comedic subject - dentures.

And indirectly, the former environmental waste operative owes his celebrity status to an ill-fitting set of them. "I could have retired from the council earlier, but wanted to save enough money to get my problem fixed," says Lew.

Wife Gill adds: "He'd seen the stories in the papers about how other people had their problems sorted out and had also done a lot of internet research."

Friendly staff

The two clinicians share a long-standing working relationship.

Says Lew: "I was using a bucket-load of fixative just to keep my teeth in. They'd be okay for half-an-hour and then they'd be dancing all over the place."

• Complete dentures • Partial dentures • Copy dentures • Implant-retained dentures • Same-day repairs • Relines • Soft linings

AS part of a campaign by the Fawcett Society, a number of politicians including Ed Miliband, Nick Clegg, and Harriet Harman have been persuaded to wear a T-shirt bearing the words 'This is what a feminist looks like'.

Now a newspaper has claimed that the T-shirts, which are being sold in the trendy clothes shop Whistles, are being made in Indian sweatshops by women workers who are paid the princely sum of 62p an hour.

Personally, I'm always suspicious about these 'raising awareness' campaigns, which usually seem to be more about the people taking part than the causes behind them.

It seems risible that anyone can really change anything just by wearing a T-shirt.

And not being funny ladies, but if you really are serious about wanting to get people to join your cause, telling them they will look like Ed Miliband really does seem a strange way of going about it.

□□□□□

FOR many people, particularly the elderly, Halloween now seems to be a night of terror.

Teenagers who are really old enough to know better use the tradition of Trick or Treat as an excuse to demand money with menaces from some of the most vulnerable members of society.

Yet while this rather unpleasant aspect of Halloween seems to have grown exponentially over the past decade or so, has anybody wondered what has happened to the good old 'penny for the guy'?

Of course, the penny was usually five pence, and I suppose there aren't so many of the ad-hoc bonfire displays around these days for them to burn their guys.

But even so, you might think that some of the schools could involve youngsters in keeping this old tradition alive.

At least seeking a penny for the guy involved a bit of effort and workmanship on the part of the youngsters. These days, it seems a hat from the pound shop and an aerosol can for graffiti is about the limit of their ingenuity.

□□□□□

TALK about man's best friend. Alleged drug producer Edward Henderson found the game was up when he was turned in by his own dog.

Henderson tried to make a run for it when police raided his house in Alabama, and managed to hide in the long grass while officers searched for him.

But Henderson was rumbled when an officer told the suspect's dog, Bo, 'go get him', and the dog ran into the field, searched out his master and stood over him, wagging his tail.

By the way, Henderson lives in a city called Prattville. You don't say.



All smiles as ISP workers wave flags



The Queen checks out a plan of the JLR site



A posy from Amelia Hughes, aged five

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

THERE were laughs and jeers when a Labour MP asked the Prime Minister what he was going to do to tighten up on immigration.

David Cameron kept his tone civil when answering Ian Austin during his weekly question time but insisted on reminding MPs about Labour's own record on that matter. There are, of course, Labour MPs who now acknowledge their party got it wrong on immigration.

Dudley North MP Mr Austin has been holding a series of public meetings and immigration is the topic that gets raised time and time again.

The reason it came to the fore again was because a minister called Nick Boles admitted the government could not control it.

While it was hardly something that would have been signed off by the Number 10 spin team, it was a statement that could have come from the Department of the Blindingly Obvious.

We're in the European Union. And there's the principle of free movement that means people from all its member states can come and go as they please. Our economy's growing, hence the £1.7 billion bill Brussels has slapped us with.

The choice then is to either come out of Europe, re-negotiate the rules on free movement or make Britain a less attractive place to be.

Reforming the benefits system so you can only get out-of-work benefits if you've paid in first by having had a job is a popular idea. So is charging foreign visitors to use the NHS.

Whether either will make a scrap of difference remains to be seen. It is not as though the benefits bill or the NHS's woes are issues that have solely arisen because of immigration.

Two Tory councillors have jumped ship, branding their old party's leadership out of touch. But unlike recent defections elsewhere, they've crossed the floor to Labour rather than run to UKIP.

Cheryl Billingham and Glenis Simms both represent wards in Dudley South, where the incumbent Conservative MP Chris Kelly is standing down. The pair are both up for re-election next May. In the press release sent out by Labour both lay in to their former party's leadership.

Councillor Simms also managed to refer to one of Ed Miliband's key campaign topics, what Labour calls the cost-of-living crisis. And in a particularly withering swipe she says: "As an ordinary working mother I no longer feel at home in David Cameron's Conservative party."

Councillor Simms and Councillor Billingham both seem to be struggling to defend their party's record in government.

None of that makes the task of the Conservatives in holding on to Dudley South any easier. At the moment they don't even have a candidate.

Wave of smiles for Queen's visit

Cheers and flags flying as thousands turn out to welcome Her Majesty.
ROB GOLLEDGE reports

CROWDS cheered, Union Flags were held up and hundreds of camera phones burst into life when Her Majesty The Queen made her first visit to Wolverhampton in two decades.

Arriving at the city's railway station by Royal train, she then made the four-mile journey along the A449 Stafford Road in a Range Rover to the i54 business park.

Wearing a stunning Peter Enriole teal dress and coat with matching Rachel Trevor-Morgan hat, Her Majesty also carried one of her trademarks: Wallis-made Launer London handbags for the visit to Jaguar Land Rover's £500 million Engine Manufacturing Centre and International Security Printers.

Animated

Accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, the 88-year-old monarch was animated and cheery throughout both visits, which lasted nearly an hour apiece, chatting to senior managers, workers and schoolchildren.

At International Security Printers, Her Majesty was talked through the stamp-printing process, even removing one her leather gloves to feel the texture of a felt stamp, before seeing the presses run.

The Queen shared jokes with staff during a tour of the world-leading company, which produces stamps for 180 countries. She came face to face with her printed image and viewed historical stamps from the past 50 years.

The firm printed the stamps for the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's wedding. She also looked at a forthcoming



The Royal party is given an introduction before their JLR tour

Royal Mail commission celebrating Inventive Britain, showcasing steel-making and the invention of the internet.

At JLR, she toured two parts of the factory, one where engine components are made and the other where they are assembled. She also met schoolchildren from Wednesfield High School, which specialises in engineering, and Brewood Middle School.

When fully functional, the long-awaited engine plant will have 1,600 staff and see an Ingenium engine some off the production line every 36 seconds.

Dignitaries including Ratan Tata, chairman of the Tata Trust and the man who purchased the JLR group, and Professor Lord Bhattacharya of Warwick Manufacturing Group, as well as MPs and local councillors, joined her for the opening.

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Saddened by plight of the elderly

IN response to the letter, council did not heed care home warning. Twenty two years ago I worked for Dudley Social Services in a care home, Dibdale in Dudley. When this closed, myself and other staff had the responsibility of trying to find alternative homes for 52 residents, which was traumatic for everyone concerned.

The closure of this home had a domino effect and, apart from Russells Hall and New Bradley Hall, the other homes closed. I voiced my opinion strongly that this would eventually result in dire consequences be-

cause the private sector often open residential homes mainly as a business. I warned that relying on community care would only provide a good service to vulnerable people if the care they received was given by adequately trained staff.

Everything that has happened has more than proved to me I knew exactly what I was talking about. It really saddens me that the care of older people in this country is so ineffective.

MARGARET POOLER
Kingswinford

No room for more migrants

SO the French interior minister has announced the creation of a new centre for migrants in Calais. He also said that there would be legal advice offered to migrants wanting to 'settle' in Britain in the completion of their applications.

A very short time ago I wrote about the £12 million our Government was giving to 'enhance security' at Calais. Now the French are overtly 'encouraging' these illegal immigrants in their attempts to get here.

Like I said before, bribery in the form of the 'Damegeld' payment only works for a very short time. Even so it is somewhat surprising that the French are acting in this way.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is a very small place. We cannot take any more 'migrants'; we are full. Our Government should have told the French, and anyone else, sorry the 'migrants' are your responsibility.

They have no right to a family life here. No appeal.

M GOUGH
Wombourne

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL

Dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Axing car tax disc is all about cutting jobs

MILLIONS of motorists are now being 'taken on trust' and do not have to display the little bit of paper on their windscreens to indicate that they have paid their road fund licence money.

Presumably thousands of the staff at the Swansea centre that dealt with the processing of these will have been made redundant. The success of this operation has been handed over to the police and other traffic control units.

Am I correct that the above is sheer logic? If so, can someone tell me how this scheme is going to pay for itself?

So how is this crazy scheme going to work?

P COLE
Kingswinford

Homes not affordable

WE keep hearing promises from politicians and others, that hundreds of affordable houses will be built, whether a Conservative or Labour Government should be in power after the next General Election.

However, the question must be asked, affordable for whom? Even if the minimum wage should rise to £8 per hour, then someone on the minimum wage working a 48-hour week would only be earning £384 per week, equating to an annual gross income of £19,968. Using a multiple of three times income, the maximum mortgage would be £59,904.

Are we therefore to believe that houses will be built selling at £60,000 or is it once again that affordable means only for those on average or higher income?

Perhaps some politician could answer that question.

L HALES
Cradley Heath

UKIP support for the NHS

I WOULD like to make one thing crystal clear. I am a UKIP MEP for the West Midlands, a UKIP councillor in Sedgley and UKIP Prospective Parliamentary candidate for Dudley North. I was an elected governor at The Dudley Group of Hospitals for three years.

I give my word that I will never support a policy of charging to see your GP or privatising the NHS. The NHS should remain in the public sector. Anybody who claims that I, or UKIP, believes anything else is at best incorrect and at worst a blatant liar.

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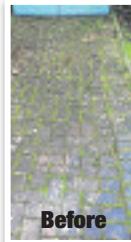
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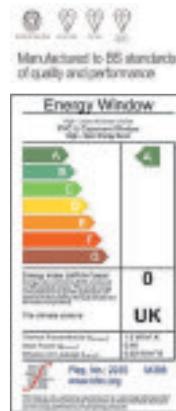
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Glamour star Jodie nails a TV talk on dating game



Glamorous Hair and Beauty's Lulija with celebrity Jodie Marsh who was filming a documentary for television

GLAMOUR girl Jodie Marsh dropped by an Oldbury beauty salon as she filmed her latest TV documentary.

Wayne Denton and his wife Lulija welcomed the model and TV presenter to their salon Glamorous Hair and Beauty, on Causeway Green Road, as she filmed a documentary on international dating, which recently aired on American cable network TLC.

Mr Denton opened the salon five years ago and was joined by his wife in 2011 after they married in the Ukraine after meeting through an online dating

agency. Mr Denton juggles his work at the salon with his career as an entertainer, performing on cruise ships and venues around the country, which led to him and his wife being approached to take part in the documentary.

Finals

Mr Denton said: "After reaching TV's New Faces finals in 1986 I was approached by the BBC to be part of a documentary called 'I had the X-Factor' 25 years ago".

"They tried to portray how the entertainment business had affected our lives and also what effect it had had

on our relationships. I explained that I had met a girl on the internet through an international dating agency and the BBC sent a film crew to our wedding.

"When the Jodie Marsh documentary was put together we were sourced by the researchers."

The couple left a strong impression on Jodie, who had her nails done by Lulija as they discussed the couple's history.

Mr Denton said: "Jodie was very down to earth. She seemed very pleased with the interview and her nails."



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£3m is being invested in training new nurses

THE recruitment of 40 extra nurses at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital has been welcomed by a local MP.

They are being recruited as part of a £3.1 million investment in staff.

The move comes after a graduate training programme was also launched by Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS foundation Trust to help fill a shortage. It's hoped the scheme will be provide 100 nurses.

As well as boosting nurse numbers, hospital bosses are hoping to reduce the need for expensive agency staff.

Hospital bosses have previously taken their recruitment drive overseas to help fill vacancies.

Care

The hospital trust is looking to recruit for the emergency department, the emergency assessment unit, short stay medical ward and in surgery, trauma, orthopaedics and elderly care.

A recruitment open day will take place on November 29.

Stourbridge MP Margot James, MP has welcomed the graduate trainee programme for nursing. In Parliament Ms James said: "The hospital's graduate programme has attracted 100 students, and will provide a long term source of trained nurses for the future. Front line staff at Russells Hall work incredibly hard, and I am very pleased that the government is recognising these improvements."

Chief executive Paula Clark said: "We need more amazing talented nurses to join our committed and dedicated staff. We've recently been investing in our nursing team and expanded our numbers with home-grown talent and some fabulous nurses from Europe. We are now opening our doors to tempt more nurses to come and join us."



More nurses are being recruited for Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley

Anti-flu spray for children

YOUNG children across Dudley are being offered a free nasal-spray flu vaccine this autumn.

Children aged two, three, or four will offered the single-dose vaccine, which will continue to be available for people aged 65 or over.

The vaccination was introduced to the UK last year after it was used effectively in America for more than 10 years.

The needle-free vaccine is an alternative to the traditional injectable

flu vaccine, and will also be available to carers and adults and babies aged between six months and two years, with a long-term medical condition.

The Fluenz immunisation is a simple, painless nasal spray that protects children against many strains of the flu virus.

Parents or carers of children who qualify for the vaccine will be contacted by their GP about getting their child vaccinated. Visit your local GP for more information.

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Memorial mountain trek is boost for the Legion



The Legion's Ken Finch, right, with Steve Waltho, Ian Austin, Shaz Saleem, veteran Gordon Willets and Dave Tyler

A SLICE of £4,600 raised for charities by a group of Dudley walkers who trekked to the top of Ben Nevis has been handed to the Royal British Legion.

In total £800 was given to the Legion at the Bert Bissell Memorial Stone in the town's Coronation Gardens. The money was raised during the Bert Bissell Memorial Walk which saw Dudley North MP Ian Austin scale Britain's highest mountain with a group of civic leaders from the borough in August.

Mr Bissell, who lived from 1902 to 1998, founded the Young Men's Bible Class at Vicar Street, Dudley. He was a probation officer and climbed Ben Nevis on VJ Day in 1945, and many times afterwards, building a peace cairn on its summit. He climbed the mountain 107 times and his final climb was done when he was in his 90s.

Deputy Mayor Councillor Steve Waltho said: "It is no easy feat climbing all 4,400 ft of Ben Nevis and it makes you appreciate just what Bert Bissell did even more. Every time we felt tired we thought of Bert and how he completed it in his 90s."



Bert Bissell on his last Ben Nevis climb



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Voluntary groups could be asked to run services

VOLUNTARY groups could be drafted in to help run some youth services in the Black Country in a bid to cut costs.

Dudley Council is to slash £200,000 from the budget and youth worker positions are at risk.

Children's services boss Councillor Tim Crumpton said the council was looking at how voluntary groups could take on services such as helping young people with disabilities.

Councils across the region have slashed their budgets for youth services.

Walsall Council announced last week that it would be getting rid of £2 million from its budget which will lead to a cut in services, while children's centres in the borough will also close.

Some 30 youth centres in Wolverhampton closed down earlier this year due to council cuts.

Protesters

Councillor Crumpton's comments came after a crowd of protesters gathered outside Dudley Council House as part of a campaign against the proposed cuts to the borough's youth services.

Representatives from unions Unite, Unison and GMB were part of those present on Friday as well as volunteers who work at various youth services in the area.

Dan Millard, a Unite rep, said: "We have taken and suffered these cuts for four years now."

"This is the final straw. They are talking about getting rid of universal services and all that will remain is one centre so every other place will lose out."

"Over 1,000 young people will not have access to these services anymore. The bottom line is that we do not want any cuts at all."

The proposals could see cuts of up to £200,000 from youth services and the loss of around 50 per cent of part time youth workers. The protesters said they hoped to reopen a dialogue.

Dumped kittens need home



Pauline Temple-Jones, who has been fostering kittens, is seen with two of the rescued felines from Sedgley Beacon

HOMES are needed for two kittens found abandoned at the top of Sedgley Beacon.

The kittens were found on the hill three weeks ago by a walker.

Now cat fosterer Pauline Temple-Jones, from Upper Gornal, is calling for help to find new homes for the kittens.

She said: "I couldn't believe both the kittens were found alone at the top of the beacon.

"There are no homes nearby and

they came running to the walker who found them, so I presume they had been dumped not long before.

"They wouldn't have survived long on their own in the wet and cold up there for sure."

After the kittens were delivered to her, Ms Temple-Jones has had them checked over by a vet.

She is planning to get them both neutered before rehoming.

Anyone who can help should call Ms Temple-Jones on 01902 672031.

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Billy is carried by teammates after beating Leicester City 3-1 in the FA Cup Final



The players leave the field after the Honved game



Roy Swinbourne heads home to equalise for Wolves against Honved

Advert led Billy to a glorious career for Wolves and England

IT was an advertisement in the Express & Star that was to change the life of **Billy Wright**.

It set him on the path to becoming one of the greatest footballers in the history of the game in England.

Placed in 1938, it invited schoolboys for trials with Wolverhampton Wanderers. Under the inspired leadership of Major Frank Buckley, Wolves were on the up.

That season, 1937-38, they had won the First Division Championship - a feat that they were to equal the next year - and it would be a wonderful opportunity for any youngster who was good enough to be taken on by the club.

It was an opportunity recognised by Norman Simpson, Billy's teacher at Madeley Senior School. He spotted the advert and urged the talented youngster from Ironbridge in Shropshire to respond.

When Billy reached Molineux, disappointment met him. Major Buckley said he was too small to make the grade, but for some

MEMORY LANE

reason 20 minutes later this imposing man changed his mind and decided to give Billy chance by signing him as an apprentice on an eight-month trial.

That was all that Billy needed. Just 14-years old, he made his debut for Wolves in A team, but he was not to stay a second stringer for long. A year later, he was chosen for the first team and aged 17, Billy signed as a professional but it was during the Second World War, and competitive football was limited - especially at Wolves.

On September 1, 1946, League football returned to England. The rain pelted down but it failed to dampen the keenness of spectators who had not seen a league match for six years.

Two years later, former captain Stan Cullis took charge as manager, and Billy Wright replaced him as leader on the field.

Within a year, the club were runners-up

in the League and winners of the FA Cup for the first time in 41 years. The FA Cup triumph in 1949 came in a 3-1 victory over Leicester City at Wembley. That and finishing runners-up in the League were tremendous achievements by Cullis, who would go on to develop a memorable Wolves side.

The next few seasons were the most exciting in the history of the club. The team included other great names such as Bert Williams, Peter Broadbent, Johnny Hancocks, and Ron Flowers.

In 1954 they won the League championship for the first time in the club's history, and became champions again in 1958 and 1959. This success was matched by outstanding performances against the best sides in Europe, where they defeated Honved, the Hungarian champions, 3-2 in one of the most exciting and exhilarating games of football ever seen in England. His outstanding performances led to an England call-up, and in 1948 he was made captain.

Remarkably, he led the team 90 times - an all-time record that he shared with Bobby Moore - and he was the first football player in the world to earn 100 caps.

Originally a wing-half, in 1954 Billy was made centre-half at the World Cup in Sweden by the manager, Walter Winterbottom.

Billy retired as a player in 1959. In all, he played 541 games for Wolves and 105 for England - which included a record run of 70 consecutive appearances. He went on to management and then became a television pundit and Head of Sport for ATV and Central Television.

Takeover

In 1990 he joined the board at Wolves as part of the takeover by Sir Jack Hayward and later had a stand named after him. Billy died in 1994. Two years later, a statue of him was erected in his honour outside Molineux, the home of his beloved Wolves.

Unequalled for his dedication, determination, loyalty, decency, consistency and unselfishness, Billy was a true Englishman. Walter Winterbottom got it right when he said that Billy Wright 'had a heart of oak'.



Hero's farewell - Billy's last match for Wolves in 1959



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Credit unions are celebrating 50 years of service in Great Britain this year and continue to go from strength to strength in both size and numbers, proving many local people are choosing to favour mutual, financial organisations over high street banks or other high cost lenders when looking to save or borrow money.

Castle and Crystal Credit Union are keen to get the message of the benefits of using a credit union out to residents, employees & local businesses within the Dudley borough. The not for-profit organisation adapts an ethical approach to banking by offering accessible savings accounts and affordable loans to its members. As a financial co-operative, it provides a friendly & fair financial service to anyone living or working within the Dudley borough.

Money saved in interest by borrowing from a credit union as opposed to borrowing from a bank or any other lender helps to keep money in the local area and has the wider benefit of boosting the local economy as people have more disposable income to spend in local shops & businesses.

Castle & Crystal has been established since 1993 & operates from its office based on 25 New Street, in Dudley town centre. The organisation is owned and run by its members so rather than rewarding outside investors, like the big banks, it shares its profits with its members and puts their interests first. Savings held with a credit union are safe and secure, as they are protected up to the value of £85000 under the government's Financial Services Compensation Scheme

The Archbishop of Canterbury has been leading the call for churches and individuals to support credit unions. The Church of England in Worcestershire and Dudley has supported Castle and Crystal with churches in Dudley and the Worcester Diocesan Social Responsibility Fund opening accounts. These generous investments will ultimately increase the credit unions pool of funds thus benefitting the local community by providing access to a source of affordable credit for local residents.



Robert Higham, Diocesan Secretary for the Diocese of Worcester & Georgina Payne, Business and Customer Service Assistant for Castle and Crystal Credit Union.

Store's ex-owner is prosecuted

A FORMER grocery store owner has been prosecuted after health inspectors discovered a series of hygiene failings.

Raj Ahmad Sadiq Sangra, who owns PK Continental in High Street, Lye, pleaded guilty to eight charges under the food hygiene regulations at Dudley Magistrates earlier this month.

Health officers carried out an inspection of the shop in September 2013 and found problems ranging from a lack of hand-washing facilities to dirty refrigerators and doors.

The shop received a hygiene rating of zero.

Sangra was fined £2,000, ordered to pay costs of £1,486.50 and a victim surcharge of £120. The court heard Sangra no longer runs the business.

Plans aim to build Co-op store on pub car park site

A CONVENIENCE store could be built on part of a pub car park in Wordsley after Marstons released land to a developer.

More than 200 premises were sold by the pub giant to New River Retail in a reported £90m deal last year.

Now plans have emerged for part of the car park outside the Ashwood Inn, off Sandringham Place, to be developed.

A notice has been installed at the pub to announce the plans but a formal application has

yet to be tabled to Dudley Council. It comes as ward councillors called for more details over the store which would be near a shopping parade.

Ward councillors have been working to fill empty stores in Sandringham Place with three shops vacant.

Councillor Paul Brothwood has also recently raised the issue of rubbish gathered around the rear of the shops. He has welcomed news of new jobs which the store could bring but urged bosses to look again at the scheme.

Concerns over problems with parking have also been raised if spaces within the car park are

lost. "They have not consulted with the locals over this scheme which I have concerns about," he said.

"I have no objections to the Co-op store as such, especially with bringing in new jobs. But I would ask them to consider whether there could be a redevelopment of the shops too."

Fellow ward councillor Derrick Hemingsley, added: "When they put the application in I would say that rather than building another shop in the area I would hope they would consider utilising the existing shops."

Support supply for power grid

A SMALL-SCALE electricity plant could be built in Dudley to support supply in the region, under new plans.

UK Power Reserve want to operate four gas-fuelled engine generators on land behind Jewson timber yard off Pedmore Road.

In a planning application by the Solihull firm, it says the generators would be turned on when supply on the National Grid was short. Bosses claim the plant will not generate any noise or emissions.

A support document from the firm said: "The proposed development site will produce electricity that will help support the local grid."

Dudley Council will make a decision in the coming weeks.

Choir and orchestra in war music concert



A smile from Sylvia Cooper during choir rehearsals



Sara Clymo and Jim Pearman take part in orchestra rehearsal

A MUSICAL society in Stourbridge is tuning up for a special concert to commemorate the First World War.

Stourbridge Choir and Orchestra, which is celebrating its 130th anniversary this year, will hold the event at the Furnace Theatre in Amblecote on Saturday, November 15.

The group, which performs up to three shows a year, usually holds a pre-Christmas show but chairman Mollie Berry said the group felt a memorial performance would be more appropriate. The choir and orchestra has around 60 members and Mrs Berry, who plays the orchestral timpani, said she has been performing with them for over 40 years.

"I haven't missed a performance in all that time, we are all very dedicated," Mrs Berry said. "We are also very inclusive. If you want to have a good time then come along."

The show includes popular music from the trenches as well as a special piece commissioned by Black Country composer Bob Birch called 'Black Country Recollections'. Mrs Berry said audience members are welcome to attend in Edwardian or military dress. Tickets £10 can be bought on (01384) 373111 or at Music Matters, High Street.

Free insulation for borough residents

DUDLEY Council is offering free loft and cavity wall insulation to homeowners in the borough as part of its Winter Warmth service.

The offer is being funded through the government's Energy Company Obligation, which means that electricity and gas suppliers have to help homes become more energy efficient and to reduce carbon emissions.

The funding is on offer for a limited time. Homeowners do not need to be receiving benefits and simply need to be a resident in Dudley borough.

Councillor Gaye Partridge, cabinet member for housing, said: "I would encourage borough homeowners to get in touch with the Winter Warmth service to claim their free loft and wall insulation. This insulation can save the average household up to £250 per year on heating bills."

The council's Winter Warmth service can be contacted on (01384) 817086.

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Children's services at centre of council clash

DUDLEY Council was accused of "lacking leadership" in a stormy meeting over £27 million worth of cuts.

Draft budget proposals including a rise in burial fees and streets and parks being maintained less often, were approved by the decision-making cabinet last week.

The cuts equal £27m of the £57m in savings the council needs to find by 2017/18 and put around 300 jobs at risk.

In a bad-tempered meeting, Councillor Patrick Harley, leader of the Conservative opposition, said the council should consider using different ways of delivering its services to help make the all-important savings, pointing to a £1m overspend in children's social services.

"Time and time again we are being told it is out of control. Families and children will need help from the authority and this is not being addressed," Councillor Harley said.

"The figures change every time we have a cabinet meeting. We are told that it is not a problem but it's clear that things need to change. There is a complete lack of leadership."

Councillor Harley suggested that cabinet members would "pass the buck" to council officers.

But Councillor Tim Crumpton, children's services boss, said: "There will be no passing of the buck, quite the opposite, as we will work very hard with the officers to make sure we keep the children safe."

"From July to September there were 373 children in 229 families referred to social services, a rise of 100 compared to the previous three months. That is what we have to deal with. There were 269 children who had further investigations, and less than 10 per cent of these children have actually been taken into care."



Councillors meet to discuss cuts to spending on services in Dudley

Homes bid at social club site

PLANS for a derelict social club to be demolished and replaced with new homes have been welcomed by a Dudley councillor.

Plans have been submitted to Dudley Council for 16 homes to be built on the site of the Woodsidge Liberal Club, on Stourbridge Road.

Closed

The club has been closed for a number of years and Councillor Will Duckworth, who represents the Netherton,

Woodsidge and St Andrew's ward, said he would be pleased to see the site redeveloped.

He said: "It's been empty for quite some time now, I would say four or five years. That sort of brownfield site is exactly the sort of site we should be using to put new houses on if we need to. It's just a shame they're not council houses."

"As long as there is sufficient car parking spaces, I would support the application in principle."

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Revamped community hub remembers a former mayor

A COMMUNITY centre in Dudley has had major refurbishment work.

Thomas Dudley carried out the work at St Thomas' network in Beechwood Road. They redecorated the centre's main hall and committee room, as well as improving several smaller rooms.

The main hall was named after Thomas Dudley, while the committee room was named after former Dudley Councillor Cyril Woodall.

Former Mayor of Dudley, Mr Woodall, died last year aged 83 after a political career spanning more than 30 years. His two nieces Margaret Silvester and Val Parish cut the ribbon watched by Martin Dudley and Hugh McCorquodale, of Thomas Dudley, and centre manager Jennifer Gregory.

Councillor Steve Waltho, chairman of the board of trustees, said:

"We are so grateful for the company's work. They have done an amazing job sprucing up the entire centre."

"Due to constraints over funding we are at a stage where we have to self-fund ourselves as best as possible. Support from outside businesses is just what we need."

"I'm optimistic about the centre's future but we would always like to see new groups and faces."

The network was set up more than 20 years ago to boost community spirit in a deprived area of Dudley. It provides training in English and on computers. There is a youth club and a nursery at the site.

Mr Woodall was mayor of the borough in 1990-91 and was awarded the title of honorary alderman for his outstanding services to Dudley in 2006. He was awarded the MBE in 2007.



Maragaret Silvester and Val Parish with Martin Dudley, Hugh McCorquodale, and manager Jennifer Gregory

Success for crackdown on rogue landlords

A CRACKDOWN on rogue landlords who offer poor quality homes in Dudley has been hailed a success.

The 'problem properties programme', run by Dudley Council and West Midlands Police, aims to tackle a range of issues. It includes taking action against property owners who have sub-divided properties in multiple bedsits without relevant permission.

As a result of the operation, which started last year, a number of benefit claims have been withdrawn and notices have been served on five properties for unauthorised change of use.

The programme has also resulted in a prosecution for failure to comply with enforcement notices and a landlord fined £12,000.

Guilty

Latif Rehman, of Lordsworth Road, Birmingham, pleaded guilty to 14 offences, including not being licensed as a private landlord.

In relation to the property he owned at 160 Wolverhampton Street in Dudley, Rehman admitted string of offences for failing to comply with the Housing Act 2004.

These included failing to ensure fire escapes were not obstructed and failing to ensure fixtures, fittings and electrical appliances were safely maintained.

In mitigation, 55-year-old Rehman told the court a number of both troublesome and vulnerable people had been living in the property. He said he had discovered as many as five people living

Brewery gets its own brand of scratchings

A DUDLEY brewery has launched its own brand of pork scratchings to complement its beers.

The Holden's Scratchings will be sold at all of its pubs. They are already on sale in the shops at the Hopden Brewery, off Sedgley Road West, Woodsetton. The 100 gramme bags cost £1.20 in the shop, which also sells Holden's bottled ales.

Managing director Jonothan Holden said they so far were stocked in about 10 of the brewery's pubs. They are being made for Holden's by Tipton-based KVE. It is the first time we have had our own branch of scratchings. We thought it would be something a bit different," said Mr Holden.

The brewery will be celebrating its 100th anniversary next year and is in the midst of putting in a new brewery extension.

The shop is open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday, 9am to noon on Saturdays.

Former leader of the council has new role

THE former leader of Dudley Council Les Jones has made a return to front bench politics as shadow cabinet member for children's services.

Councillor Jones has replaced former Conservative Councillor Glenis Simms who crossed the divide to join the opposition Labour group last week.

Councillor Jones had stepped away from Dudley's Conservative group in May 2013 only to return a year later. He also ran as the Conservative candidate for Police and Crime Commissioner candidate for the West Midlands.

Now the Pedmore and Stourbridge East Ward representative will be in direct opposition to Councillor Tim Crumpton.

Councillor Jones said: "I'm looking to get my teeth into children's services because the direction Labour is going is a concern. As a former leader of the council I had to cast my eye over a number of services and children's services was certainly one."

He also gave his reaction to Councillor Simms' defection, saying: "It was a shock. It's disappointing."

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White Label double mattress	£249	£94	61%
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Bev in annual gig to raise cash for charity

Scheme to help solve family strife saves £40m

DUDLEY Council has saved more than £40 million helping troubled families turn their lives around.

More than 6,200 of these families across the region potentially costing taxpayers £468 million a year are being helped by local authorities and partners as part of a Government programme.

Troubled families are defined as those who are involved in youth crime or anti-social behaviour, have children who are regularly truanting and have an adult on out-of-work benefits. Across the Black Country, 4,850 families are labelled as such.

In Dudley the £40m, has been saved by helping 536 of its 740 identified families.

Dudley Council was granted £2,000 per family and is one of only two authorities in the West Midlands to be awarded more funding towards its programme. Around 750 families were offered help during the first two years of the scheme and now the authority has revealed that it hopes to support a further 2,500.

The council will reach out to families with a broader range of problems including domestic violence and abuse with younger children who

need help and a range of physical and mental health problems.

The Government says these families cost the public sector an estimated average of £75,000 per year. Government data collected in October and November 2011 estimated that £9bn is spent annually on troubled families.

Secretary of State Eric Pickles said: "The Troubled Families programme demonstrates exactly what our long-term economic plan means for people: new opportunities for families to turn their lives around and make something of themselves."

The programme was launched in the wake of the 2011 riots.



Bev Pegg and his Good Time Jazz Gang will be performing in aid of charities at Hagley this weekend

BLACK Country musician Bev Pegg will be performing at an annual charity event aimed at helping the staff behind a food service which helps needy families.

Top clarinetist and saxophonist Zoltan Sagi is appearing at Hagley Community Centre on Saturday alongside Pegg and his Good Time Jazz Gang.

The Rotary Club of Stourbridge is hosting the event with cash raised helping the Black Country Food Bank together with other rotary charities.

Pegg, from Halesowen, and his jazz band have been performing at this function every autumn since 1998.

The event takes place from 7.30pm at the community centre, off Worcester Lane, Hagley, near Stourbridge.

Pegg will be singing, playing guitar and banjo, alongside his line-up of musicians.

Tickets are £14 each including fish and chip supper. They can be bought from Chris Fonteyn, at 24 Field Lane, Oldswinford, Stourbridge or by calling (01384) 376865.

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One of the four new murals for the library



The entrance to Town Hall and Library at the Crown Centre



One of the new murals for the childrens section of Stourbridge library

Artist books in her inspirational works at library



Artist Natalie Perry, left, and library assistant Sophie Norton with the four new murals
THERE is an added touch of fantasy at Stourbridge Library after an artist donated four out-of-this-world murals for its children's section.

By Rob Cox

Natalie Perry, from Wollaston, had wanted to help spruce up the walls for several years but it was not until its refurbishment as part of the Crown Centre development she was given the go-ahead.

She hopes the four paintings – which were unveiled last week – will inspire the next generation of bookworms.

Process

The project has proved to be a labour of love for the 29-year-old, with the whole process from design to creation taking two years.

She said: "It started with workshops I put on where we got the community to come in. We had children with their parents and a few adults on their own.

"I asked them what were their favourite books and what were their favourite parts of books."

"We also asked them why it was they came into the library, took inspiration from

what came out and then pieced together the four murals."

Each mural is centred on a different setting including a dark woodland, an underwater scene and winter.

The fourth, fiery image includes a Hobbit-inspired dragon, one of several characters taken from popular children's books.

It has been very much a family project for Natalie – a part-time art technician at King Edward VI College, Stourbridge – with husband and fellow artist Luke helping to cut the boards and a baby girl arriving just a few months after work began.

She added: "I have had to find time whenever I could over the last year. I've been working in nap times and bed times."

"I hope my work will make the space feel more happy. They are all colourful and bright and should help liven up the space."

"What would be really great would be if the children started to pick their favourite characters from those on display."

"It is not the first time the Perry family has helped out at the library, with Luke responsible for the artwork at the entrance to the building."

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Camera bid to watch for dealers

A CAMERA will be put up in a residential street in Blackheath following complaints from homeowners over drug dealing.

Officers hope the Domehawk camera, usually installed on lamp posts, will catch the culprits of anti-social behaviour in the act. The idea came up following a meeting between police and representatives from Sandwell Council.

A police spokesman said: "In conjunction with council housing officers, council anti-social behaviour officers and neighbourhood police team we offered advice and asked residents for their help in providing evidence."

"We also arranged for a Domehawk camera to be installed. We have increased patrols in the area to provide support to residents and to deter anti-social behaviour."

Safer during long nights

A BLITZ on speeding, drinking and dog fouling in Sandwell has come to Rowley Regis in a bid to make residents feel safer as the nights draw in.

The Safer 6 campaign is focusing on cleaning up the six towns of the borough – one week at a time.

The third week focused on Rowley Regis, where the council, fire, police, health and probation services, and community and voluntary organisations, all took part.

FOCUS ON BLACKHEATH & ROWLEY REGIS

Traffic measures begin after ten year campaign

WORK has begun on a £75,000 traffic calming scheme in Rowley Regis after concerned residents launched a petition.

Almost 150 people called for action as part of a ten year campaign to get the improvements implemented along Harvest Road. Work began on Monday and improvements include new signage and speed humps as well as an illuminated sign which will activate during school run periods to warn motorists. Two new cycle lanes will also be implemented.

Lee Bromley, who lives on the road and started the petition, said: "This is a victory in a very long running battle. I first became involved around ten years ago after my son Kurt was knocked over on the road when he was just eight."

"There have been several accidents since then and the road is just very dangerous. You can basically take for granted that there will be at least a few a year."

Earlier this year a car left the carriage way and ended up on its roof in a garden.

Mr Bromley added: "There have been petitions to introduce road safety measures before... but it never went anywhere. It does feel as though the accidents are becoming more commonplace and I think that was what gave it the final push."

Councillor Susan Eaves, who lives on Harvest Road, said: "It is about time these measures were implemented. They are much needed and much wanted."

All of the signatures on

By Charlie Benton

the petition are from residents just on Harvest Road, according to Mr Bromley, but he says that the problem extends further.

"We did not get signatures from the nearby Brickhouse Estate but I do have plans to work on getting the same measures for nearby roads," Mr Bromley said. "These measures will go some way to solving the problem but they will need to be extended to these roads to stop it completely."

Mr Bromley said although residents have been warned there will be disruption he believed it will be worth it.

"Even if it saves just one life it will be worth it," he said.

Councillor Susan Eaves, who lives on Harvest Road, said: "It is about time these measures were implemented. They are much needed and much wanted."



Look no hands – Barry Smith, AKA Barry Schmit, of the Black Country Accordion Club

Accordion night in aid of hospital

AN accordion maestro who set up his own club for fans of the instrument is organising a Bavarian-themed charity event to raise money for the Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Barry Smith, from Rowley Regis, also known by his stage name of Barry Schmit, had the idea for the event after his grandson was born with health problems.

Mr Smith said: "My grandson was born in April. He had quite severe problems with his heart and had to have several operations. The hospital saved his life and I wanted to do something to say thank you."

Mr Smith, who has been playing since he was 11, started the Black Country Accordion Music group around six years ago.

The group aims to raise about £1,000 at the event at Cradley Heath Liberal Club from 7.30pm on November 20. Tickets are £10 with a buffet, call 0121 559 4620.

Hundreds attend MP's jobs fair

AROUND 400 people flocked to the third Halesowen and Rowley Regis Jobs and Skills Fair.

The event was organised by MP James Morris and was held at the Zion Christian Centre in Halesowen.

The fair saw 25 organisations showcasing jobs, apprenticeships and training opportunities including national companies. Careers advice was available from the Black Country Skills Factory and Connexions.

Mr Morris said: "Even though local unemployment continues to fall, we still need to do everything possible to help people in Halesowen and Rowley Regis to find work and to gain the skills and qualifications they need."

"I spoke to all of the companies and know how impressed they were with the quality of the people at the jobs and skills fair."

Poppy Day at memorial

A REMEMBRANCE Sunday service will be held in Rowley Regis.

The service will take place at Rowley Regis War Memorial at Powke Lane Cemetery at 10.45 am with a parade from Highgate Street Car Park in Cradley Heath beforehand.

Due to refurbishment work at the cemetery, those attending are asked not to park cars at the cemetery grounds between 10.15am and 12.15pm to ensure there is standing room.

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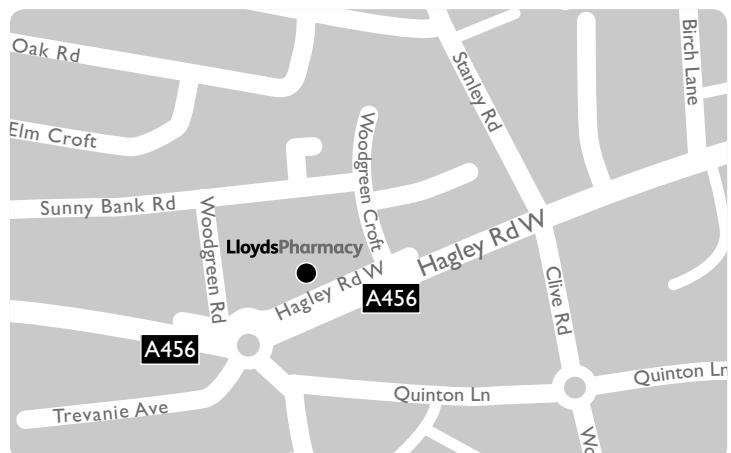
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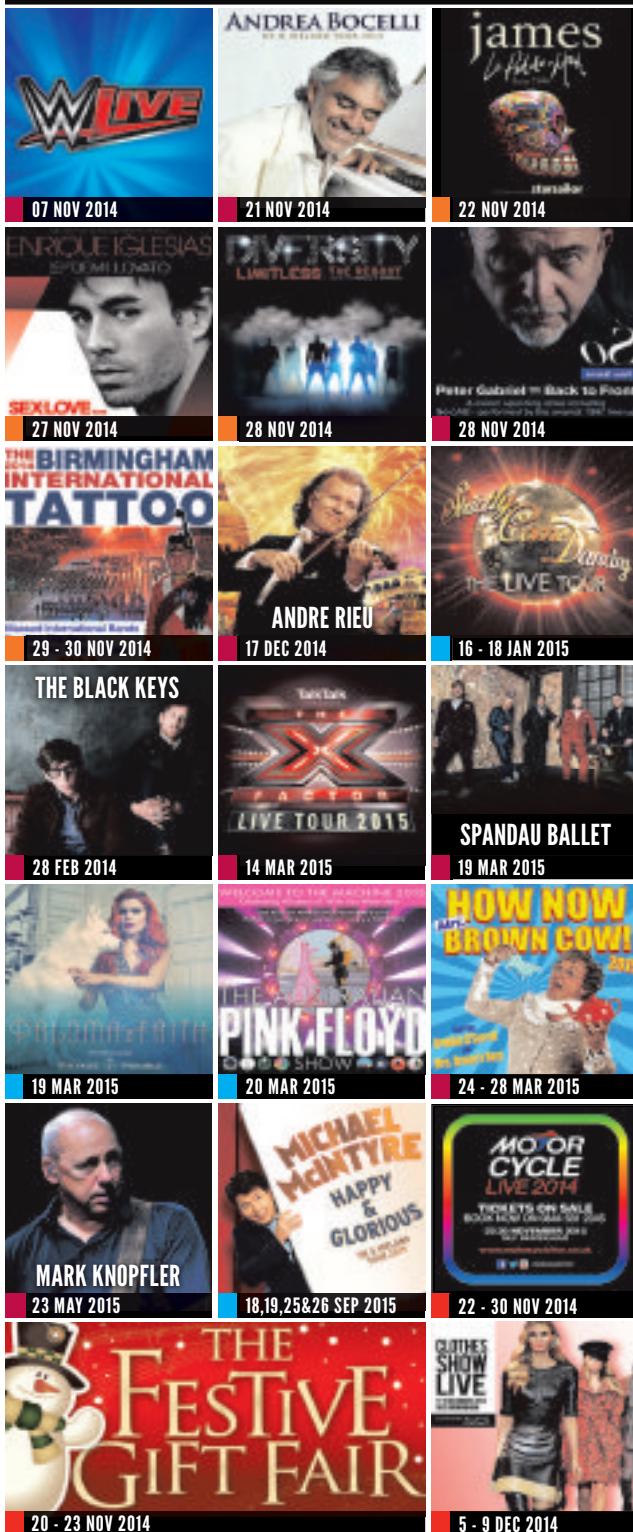
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Art show to help children



Artist Pascale Bigot at her home which she is opening as a temporary gallery to help educate children in Nigeria

LANDSCAPE paintings, vases and jewellery are just some of the creations an artist will be displaying in a charity open day at her home next week.

French artist Pascale Bigot is hosting the annual exhibition at her Stourbridge house from November 14 to 16.

There will be more than 70 paintings, plus other items for sale by the 51-year-old who settled in Stourbridge with her husband around 20 years ago.

Mrs Bigot is raising money for five children attending a school in Nigeria through charity Grain de Sable.

Her home exhibitions, which have been running for more than 12 years and have helped educate dozens of children. She began her charity work after seeing poverty-stricken children while on a holiday in Nigeria.

There will be free entry for the event at 70 Worcester Street. Money will be raised through sales.

New firms vie for awards

THREE West Midlands businesses, including a firm from near Stourbridge, are finalists in the Startups Awards 2014.

The national awards are for companies that have been trading for no more than three years.

Eyespace Eyewear in Broome has been shortlisted in the women in business category. Founders Julie and Jayne Abel are currently the only female managing directors of a

UK-based optical brand. It was also named a finalist in the product business of the year category.

Wednesbury-based F-Board, founded by Alister Gower, has put to market the world's first ecologically sustainable scaffold material made from recycled uPVC windows. It has been named a finalist in the crowd-funded business of the year.

Birmingham same-day courier company Diamond Logistics, run by Julian Westwood, is shortlisted in franchisee of the year.

All three companies are hoping to

win one of 15 trophies up for grabs at Kensington Roof Gardens, London, on November 27.

Judges, including entrepreneurs, chief executives and managing directors of some of the country's most successful companies, chose the line up and will also select the overall winners.

The main prize is the title of Simplicity Business Startups business of the year.

There is also a People's Champion award will go to one of 50 companies that made the long list of outstanding entrants.

'Bomber' Brown is grateful for statue

ALBION legend Tony 'Bomber' Brown has spoken of his excitement ahead of the unveiling of his statue at the Hawthorns.

The bronze sculpture — to be unveiled on today (Thursday) — will take pride of place outside the East Stand to honour his unstinting 20-year service to West Bromwich Albion.

Tony spoke about the statue at the opening of the new club store in Queens Square, West Bromwich, on Friday.

He said: "There will be some ex-players there, some fans and my family, so I'm really looking forward to the whole occasion.

"When the chairman first told me I was overwhelmed. I'm very thankful for what is truly a great honour.

"I came straight out of school when I was just 15. Not for a minute did I think this moment would come after so many years. I couldn't have expected anything like this would happen."

Between 1961 and 1981, Brown made 720 appearances for the Baggies, scoring 279 goals, both of which remain club records. He also helped the club win the League Cup in 1966, the FA Cup in 1968 and promotion back to the top flight in 1976 before being part of club's hugely exciting team of the late 1970s.

The statue, created by renowned sculptor Jonathan Wylder, has been two years in the making.

Express & Star

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Council boss furious that public views brushed aside

Roadshow gathers family stories of war



Soldiers in First World War uniforms standing guard near Dudley Archives and Local History Centre

FAMILIES are being invited to share and discover the stories of their relatives during the First World War this weekend at the Great War Roadshow at the Dudley Archives and Local History Centre.

It is being hosted by Dudley Council and The Black Country Living Museum.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for archives, said: "The Great War Roadshow will make a fascinating and moving day."

The roadshow will feature displays, costumed characters, life stories, photographs and souvenirs from the period and all relating to people from Dudley borough. People are also being asked to bring in their own First World War pictures and memorabilia to share their stories with war historians.

A programme of captivating Great War talks will be given at the event taking place on Saturday, from 10am to 4pm, at the centre in Tipton Road, next to The Black Country Living Museum.

Police to sell off Steelhouse Lane station

THE £30 million revamp of the West Midland Police headquarters is set to be completed by September 2016.

More than a thousand staff have already been re-located from Lloyd House in Birmingham city centre in preparation for the building work that is scheduled to start in January.

Phased

The redevelopment of the building is due to take 87 weeks to complete.

The phased return of employees will be beginning in November of next year.

The final phase of the re-

THE leader of Sandwell Council has hit out at a 'ludicrous' decision by officers to choose a revamp scheme for Birchley Island not favoured by many motorists.

Councillor Darren Cooper criticised the council officers' option last week, as he deferred the overhaul of the heavily congested road at Oldbury for plans to be re-examined.

Plans for the island were put out to consultation in recent months with four options put forward. More than 1,000 people responded through questionnaires and Facebook.

Hamburger

Council officers had recommended a two-way 'hamburger' island be installed at the congestion hotspot. But more than half of public views were in favour of a different option, costing £12.9m, which would create a traffic

By Charlie Benton

junction similar to that at Burnt Tree on the Dudley and Sandwell border.

The council's preferred option would involve Wolverhampton Road being extended on a new roadway through the roundabout to create a two-way 'hamburger' island, which could cost around £12.7m.

Councillor Cooper said: "I pulled the report because I am not happy with the fact that we had consultations on four options and the option that was the favourite was not the one that was recommended."

"I have therefore instructed the chief executive of the council to look into why this option was recommended. The decision has been deferred pending the chief executive reporting back to me. It is ludicrous and I will not accept it. The chief executive needs to explain why this option

was recommended. What is the point of a consultation otherwise?"

Motorists and business owners had called for improvements to roundabout in Oldbury, near junction two of the M5. The scheme preferred by most motorists was dismissed by officers who claimed it would fail to halt traffic jams.

Economy chief Councillor Ian Jones added: "The report has been deferred while we take another look at the information we have and the cost benefit analysis. More than 50 per cent wanted one option and the other option was then recommended."

"The consultation with the public costs just £554 for a project that will cost more than £12m. We are looking at an important scheme affecting more than 90,000 drivers each day. We also realise that the council option selected was not aligned with what the public said and we need to look at why that was."

RUBBISH bins will be collected over four days instead of five as part of a shake-up of workers' hours being considered by officials in Sandwell.

Serco, which runs bins, green waste and recycling collections in the borough on behalf of Sandwell Council, has written to staff to outline proposals.

In the letter issued to staff, employees have been told they would cease to work on Mondays as part of a drive to create a 'better work/life balance'.

Staff would continue to work a 37 hour week, under the plan, but this would be over four days from Tuesday to Friday.

In a letter to staff, John Mason, Serco's general contract manager, said there would have to be a

'total re-route and more efficient working' in the department.

The union Unite are in discussions over the changes.

Talks

Sandwell Councillor Maria Crompton, who is in charge of highways for the authority, confirmed talks had been held with staff.

But she reiterated that no final decision had been taken over staff working conditions or changes to deliveries at this stage.

One worker, who did not wish to be named, said: "We have been speaking to the union and they have their concerns."

"I'm concerned for my job and what is going to happen in the future if we go to four days a week."

Shake-up may see changes to bin collections

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Two Tories make move to Labour

TWO Dudley councillors who switched allegiance to Labour said they felt the Conservative government was 'out of touch with the needs of working people'.

Councillors Cheryl Billingham and Glenis Simms last week announced their defection. The pair, who have been councillors for three years, were met outside Dudley Council House by Labour's Transport Shadow Secretary Mary Creagh MP.

Kingswinford North and Wall Heath's Councillor Billingham said: "The Conservative Party is out of touch and no longer stands up for ordinary hard working people in Dudley. I have been disillusioned with the Conservative government as a whole, and some of the policies." Wordsley's Councillor Simms said: "David Cameron's Conservative Party is out of touch with the concerns of ordinary people in Dudley. We will work no differently to how we have always worked (but) with a red rosette."

CAMPAIGNERS have missed a deadline to lodge fresh plans to run Dudley Hippodrome.

The Friends of Dudley Hippodrome were hoping to lodge a fresh business plan to run the landmark theatre and were vying with a developer who wants to turn it into a £8 million entertainment venue.

Both groups were told to have their plans submitted to Dudley Council by October 31. The developer, ROK Group, has done so but the friends organisation had not, claiming council bosses didn't give them access to the theatre quick enough.

Members of the Friends of Dudley Hippodrome group also say that officials from the local

By Andrew Turton

authority would only give them restricted access once inside.

They say they are hoping to now get a business plan to the council this week but admit it won't be complete.

Dudley Council said work to evaluate The ROK Group proposal is underway. Both groups were given a day's access to the venue earlier this month.

Friends chairman Gordon Downing said they were disappointed not to be allowed into the theatre's basement, where they hope to hold gigs. Mr Downing said: "It was the main area that we

wanted to look at." Group member Gaz Sawers added: "We have been asking for access for ages and it was only in the last few days we have got it and it was very restricted."

Dudley regeneration boss Councillor Judy Foster said: "We have been working with the friends group for around two and half years and given them ample opportunity to submit a realistic business plan.

"Last week we also gave members access to parts of the building that were safe, however, some parts are too dangerous to venture into because of asbestos.

"However, we cannot allow this issue to drag on, which is costing the tax-payer considerable amounts of money in allowing the building to deteriorate further."

Officers support mosque scheme

A PLAN for a new mosque in Dudley has won the backing of council officers ahead of a decision later this month — despite more than 800 people objecting to the proposal.

Dudley Muslim Association wants to build the 52ft high mosque with 62ft high minaret in Hall Street, along with a two-storey car park in Hall Street.

The planning application was revised from a previously failed bid, which had the minaret at a height of 109ft. It has still attracted 885 letters of objection.

A total of 370 letters of support and a petition backing the application with 1,718 signatures were also sent to the council.

In a report ahead of a development control meeting on the proposal next week, officers said: "The design and appearance of the proposed development, along with the proposed landscaping of the site, is considered to be acceptable and the proposal is considered to have sufficiently overcome the previous reasons for refusal."

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My parents' wedding day at Emmanuel Church, Alum Rock, in November 1954



Granny Wood with her son Alfie



Mom is sixth from the left on the second row when this school photo was taken at St Mary's School

Fond farewell to our dear mom Sylvie, proud to be an Aston Wench

OUR Mom, Sylvie Chinn nee Perry, was always singing.

Whatever she was doing she'd sing, but the times I remember best were when she sang on a Sunday along with 'Two Way Family Favourites' on the Light Programme.

Mom would be in the kitchen getting the roast ready for dinner and we'd hear her beautiful voice joining in with Sarah Vaughan, her great favourite, Tony Bennett, Nat King Cole, Billy Eckstine and others.

Songs played a big part in her life. One of her earliest memories was of sitting in the big shelter in her yard in Whitehouse Street, Aston with her mom and dad and neighbours, and joining in the sing-songs that kept up their spirits as the bombs pounded down on working-class Birmingham. Born in April 1936, Our Mom was only four when the bombing started. Like most Brummie children, she had been evacuated at the start of the war. As she was

MEMORY LANE

By Professor Carl Chinn

under school age, she was sent to Cheltenham with Our Nan, Lil Perry, and other mothers and youngsters. Mom had only vague recollections of that time, but as with so many others she was fetched back home during this Phoney War.

And then in the late summer of 1940, the Blitz began. Our Mom remembered one particular night of fear when Our Nan and Granddad, Arthur Perry, grabbed her in her night-clothes, held her in their arms and with everyone else in their yard rushed down the middle of Whitehouse Street to the big underground shelter of Powell and Hammer's.

When me and Our Kid, Darryl, were youngsters and we listened to such stories we found it hard to believe that there could be any happiness or fun during such terrible times. Yet there was. Our Aunt Win was one of Nan's younger sisters and she was

very close with Our Mom. Winnie used to titter about sending Mom to fetch her sand from the bomb pecks so that she could wet it and rub it on her legs. Then she'd get a black pencil and put a line down the back of each of her calves.

That way when she went dancing she looked like she had stockings on. There was a problem, though: when she jitterbugged the chaps would throw her around, her frock would go up and you could see the whites of her legs above her knees.

Space

Mom spent a lot of time with Our Winnie because when Our Nan married, she and Granddad got a house in the same street as her Mom, Granny Wood. Granny had 12 children and it was very difficult finding space for them all to sleep in a small, two-bedroomed back-to-back which downstairs only had one room and a tiny scullery. So with Nan having a spare bedroom just across the street at 7 back of 6, she took in Winnie who used to sleep in the double

bed in the attic with Mom. Mom always emphasised to us that she was fortunate to grow up knowing that she had the love of her Mom and Dad, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins and to live in a street filled with love. At the heart of that love was the inspirational Granny Wood. Mom was always proud to be a backstreet Brummie and an Aston wench, even though she had moved away when she married Dad at eighteen. And although her house had been long gone and there was an open space where her old yard was, Mom always saw it in her mind.

She was proud to come out of Whitehouse Street. Mom's wish was for us to take her back to Aston when she died. And we did. We took her down her street and past her old yard. We remembered her life at Aston Parish Church and the cortège stopped at the Holte End of her beloved Aston Villa on its way to Perry Barr Crematorium. I know this: I am proud to be the son of Sylvie Chinn, nee Perry and one of the Woods out of Whitehouse Street. I am proud to be the son of a proud Aston wench.



Our Mom and her cousins in 1956. She was pregnant with me

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Adoption in the Black Country has recently announced its expansion, with a new partner to their consortium, taking members up to five. Adoption Focus, rated by OFSTED as Outstanding joined the Consortium in October. This is a highly significant change for Adoption in the Black Country and will see them move from a collaboration of 4 Local Authorities which operate within a sub region of the West Midlands, to a larger West Midlands wide operator and recruiter of adopters.

The expansion means even better services for our local adopters with wider access to excellent support services.

Anna Sharkey, CEO, Adoption Focus said: "This partnership is an excellent development for adopters across the



region which will increase opportunities for children in need. Working across different sectors will utilise the considerable skills and expertise of all staff involved in adoption"

The next event for the consortium's new member will be at The Village Hotel, Castlegate Drive, Dudley, DY1 4TB on 11th November (6pm start).

For more information see adooptionblackcountry.co.uk or call 0800 073 0597

Hands showing up at Town Hall

CELEBRATING 22 years of working together award winners Show of Hands return to Town Hall, Birmingham on November 9 with of course the one and only Miranda Sykes, singer and double bass player extraordinaire.

Folk legends Steve Knightley and Phil Beer are among the most respected musicians on the folk/acoustic circuit.

Following a nine-month break working on solo projects the act is now touring for the first time this year. Tickets are £19.50 and show starts 7.30pm.

Please note, anyone hoping to see folk orchestra Bellowhead celebrating their 10th anniversary will now be disappointed as Symphony Hall Birmingham gig is sold out.

Fakers to Faces with classic rock

THERE is a gig for fans of 1970s rock band The Faces tonight (Thursday) at the Robin 2 in Birston.

The group was formed in 1969 by members of London Mod band The Small Faces (Ronnie Lane, Ian McLagan and Kenney Jones), having recruited guitarist Ronnie Wood and singer Rod Stewart.

The concert features tributes to the Small Faces, The Faces and to Humble Pie, the band formed by the other former Small Face Steve Marriott. Performing will be the Small Fakers, Humble Pie and The Faces Experience. Tickets are £12.50 or £15 on the door. Call 01902 401211.

Blizzard warning as Slava's Snowshow rolls into theatre

Mr and Mrs in star roles

A PAIR of newly-weds will take to the stage to star opposite each other for the first time as a married couple in a production of the musical Mack & Mabel at Brierley Hill Civic Hall.

Adam and Liz Compton will take the leads as Mack Sennett and Mabel Normand in the story of how Keystone Cops director Mack fell in love with Mabel and made her a star during the golden age of Hollywood.

Mr and Mrs Compton have performed together once before as the Cratchits in A Christmas Carol in 2012, but this will be the first time the couple take the lead together in a Cramley Heath Amateur Operatic Society show.

They married at Himley Hall in July this year.

Mack & Mabel will run at Brierley Hill Civic Hall from November 11 to 15. Tickets are £14 and can be bought from the box office on 0121 585 7380.



Newly-weds Adam and Liz Compton get ready to play opposite each other in Mack & Mabel

BIRMINGHAM is braced for a blizzard when Slava's Snowshow rolls into Birmingham Hippodrome on Wednesday, November 12, for a five day stay.

It is a unique production designed for the entire family. It is a combination of clowning and visual spectacle that invites audiences to enter a dream-like world, in which a cobweb envelops the audience and one tiny piece of paper begins a stunning blizzard.

This production is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its UK debut. Its third visit to Birmingham marks the beginning of its new UK tour and a Christmas season at London's Royal Festival Hall following three previous sell-outs. The show has now been seen by more than three million people in 30 countries.

Slava's Snowshow is performed by a world-renowned company of clowns formed by Russian 'clown prince' Slava Polunin, who was influenced by artists such as Chaplin, Marcel Marceau and great Russian clown Leonid Engibarov. Slava and his company have taken clowning to a new level.

Other theatre highlights include: Philip Glass opera The Trial, based on the novel by Franz Kafka, at Birmingham Repertory Theatre on Monday for one night only.

It is followed at The Rep by Shakespeare's Othello given a progressive makeover by Frantic Assembly



Now that's a snow ball

from November 12 to 14.

Peter James thriller The Perfect Murder is being brought to the stage by Olivier Award winning director Ian Talbot at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Monday to Saturday.

It features Thomas Howes from Downton Abbey with Dawn Steele from Wild At Heart.

There's a musical alternative at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre where West End tribute to Michael Jackson, Thriller Live, will have fans dancing in the aisles from Tuesday to Saturday.

Cooper coming to the Red Lion

RED Lion Folk Club in King's Heath, Birmingham have a great line up of musicians for the coming month.

On November 12 Ray Cooper comes to the venue with Louisa Davies-Foley & Jason Sparkes as support.

Tickets are £11, the prices are £11, the prices on the website are for members', non-members who book online will pay £12 plus 10% transaction fee.

Scottish guitar virtuoso Ewan McLennan will be bringing the sounds of his new album Stories Still Untold to the venue on November 19. McLennan will be supported by Fleet Street. Tickets are again £11. All shows are on Wednesdays, doors open 7.15pm for a 7.45pm start.

Colvin to play the Newhampton

THE Newhampton Folk Club's monthly guest is the Gerry Colvin Band.

The show is in the upper room of the Newhampton Inn, Riches Street, Whitmore Reans and starts at 8.30pm. Colvin will be supported by Pete Shirley and Esther Brennan. Tickets are £10 in advance or £12 on the door.

Winter Wilson will be at Brewood Acoustic Music Club, at Brewood Cricket Club on Thursday November 13. Show starts 8.30pm.

Tom Patterson & Dave Morton play Willenhall Folk & Acoustic Club on the 26th at 8.30pm at New Invention Victory Club.

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CHOICE



Huw Edwards

Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance 2014 (BBC1, 9.10pm)

It's time to pay tribute to the brave men who fought in the two world wars and more recent conflicts. Of course, with this year marking the centenary of the First World War, the festivities are all the more significant. Tonight, Huw Edwards hosts this annual event from the Royal Albert Hall, which sees the Queen and other members of the royal family in attendance. Joss Stone, the cast of War Horse and D-Day veteran Jim Radford perform alongside the Massed Bands of the Household Division, and the bands of HM Royal Marines and Queen's Colour Squadron. There will also be a two-minute silence, with thousands of poppy petals falling from the venue's ceiling.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.15** Saturday Kitchen Live. **10.45** The Lord Mayor's Show 2014. **12.10** BBC News; Weather. **12.20** Football Focus. **1.10** Rugby League: Four Nations Highlights. **2.00** Live International Rugby Union. Wales v Australia (Kick-off 3pm). **4.30** Final Score. **5.40** BBC News; Weather. **5.40** Pointless Celebrities: Winter Special. **6.30** Strictly Come Dancing. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present another round of dancing action as the twinkle-toed celebrities compete to avoid ending up in the bottom two – and to add to the tension, the losing pair will miss out on performing at the world-famous Blackpool Tower Ballroom next week. Len Goodman, Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Darcey Bussell are the ones to impress as the hopefuls perform a mixture of routines. The results are tomorrow at 7.45pm.

8.00 **Doctor Who**. Part two of two. As Cybermen roam the streets of London, old friends unite in the battle against evil. But the Doctor soon realises that sacrifices must be made. Last in the series.

9.00 **The National Lottery Live**. Gaby Roslin reveals the numbers for the Lotto and Thunderball draws.

9.10 **Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance 2014**. Huw Edwards presents coverage of the annual event from the Royal Albert Hall in the presence of the Queen and other members of the royal family. Joss Stone, the cast of War Horse and D-Day veteran Jim Radford perform alongside the Massed Bands of the Household Division, and the bands of HM Royal Marines and Queen's Colour Squadron. Together they pay tribute to the victims of conflict, from the First World War to the present day, in a festival that also includes the traditional two-minute silence as thousands of poppy petals fall from the venue's ceiling.

10.45 **BBC News**; Weather.

11.00 **Match of the Day**. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Liverpool v Chelsea at Anfield and Manchester United v Crystal Palace at Old Trafford; National Lottery Update.

12.20 **The Football League Show**. **1.00** Film: *Steal*. (2002) **2.20** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.25** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Animal Park. (R) **6.30** Rugby League: Four Nations. **9.20** The Indestructible Warship, Tanzania – World War 1, Beyond the Trenches. **9.25** The Private Life of Plants. (R) **10.15** Map Man. (R) **10.45** James Martin: Home Comforts. **11.15** Exploring China: A Culinary Adventure. (R) **12.15** Astaire and Rogers: *Sing Gershwin*. (R) **12.30** Film: *That's Entertainment! III*. (1994) **2.20** Film: *Easter Parade*. (1948) **4.00** *Flop It!* (R) **5.00** Live International Rugby Union. Scotland v Argentina (Kick-off 5.30pm). **7.30** **Dad's Army**. Captain Mainwaring and the platoon welcome the first American troops to Walmington-on-Sea, but Anglo-US relations become strained. Classic comedy, starring Arthur Lowe. (R)

8.00 **The Great War – An Elegy: A Culture Show Special**. In a major new BBC commission, poet Simon Armitage has written poems about the First World War that form the centre of this documentary. He visits French beaches, German PoW camps, so-called "thankful" villages and remote corners of the Highlands as he considers the deaths of more 700,000 British soldiers in the conflict, telling seven real-life war stories – each of which culminates in a poem inspired by the writer's research. Featuring readings by both Armitage himself and relatives of those whose tales he brings to life.

9.00 **Formula 1: The Brazilian Grand Prix – Qualifying**. Action from Interlagos. Suzi Perry presents the battle for pole at Interlagos in São Paulo, ahead of the 18th and penultimate round of the season. Sebastian Vettel was the fastest qualifier here last year, and it came as little surprise to see the Red Bull driver go on to dominate the race.

10.30 **QI XL**. Extended edition. The Rev Richard Coles, Sara Pascoe, Bill Bailey and Alan Davies try to answer host Stephen Fry's questions on L-shaped larks – a "Lilababble", as he calls it.

11.15 **TOTP2**. Mark Radcliffe introduces some surprises to KC and the Sunshine Band. Everything but the girl, the jam, Robert Palmer, Neneh Cherry, Jilted John and Lisa Hannigan. (R)

12.15 Film: *Walkabout*. (1971) **1.50** Film: *Harlequin*. (1980) **3.25** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 **CITV**: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.05** Cannimals. (R) **7.10** Cannimals. (R) **7.20** Signed Stories: *It's a Story*. (R) **7.25** Sooty. (R) **7.35** Mr Benn: *The Ant and the Grasshopper*. (R) **7.50** Matt Hatter: *Chronicles*. **8.15** Horrid Henry. **8.30** *The Munch Box*. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** *The Hungry Sailors*. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** ITV News; Weather. **11.25** Storied Hoarders. (R) **12.30** Surprise Surprise. (R) **1.30** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **2.15** Doc Martin. (R) **2.30** *Keep It in the Family*. (R) **4.20** Film: *Evan Almighty*. (2007) Comedy sequel, starring Steve Carell.

6.05 **Regional Programme**: Weather.

6.15 **ITV News**; Weather.

6.30 **New You've Been Framed!** Harry Hill narrates a selection of videos filmed by viewers, featuring memorable pregnancy reactions, a dog ruining a living room, and a grandmother performing a triple-prise.

7.00 **The Chase: Celebrity Special**. Comedian Sanjeev Bhaskar, Commonwealth sprinting gold medallist Libby Clegg, singer Alexandra Burke and cricket commentator Henry Blofield play for charity. Bradley Walsh hosts.

8.00 **The X Factor**. The would-be chart stars perform hits from the back catalogues of popular groups for Girbandi v Boyband week, and with Mel B and Cheryl Fernandez-Versini sitting at the judges' desk, anyone choosing songs by the Spice Girls or Girls Aloud had better be good. As the live studio rounds reach the halfway point, the pressure is mounting and there are more and more fierce disagreements on the panel. Dermot O'Leary will be on hand to keep a cool head. The results are tomorrow at 8pm.

9.45 **The Jonathan Ross Show**. The host chats to Stanley Tucci and Natalie Dormer, who star in *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1*, comedian Frank Skinner, and singer Lily Allen, who also provides the music.

10.45 **ITV News**; Weather.

11.05 Film: *The Kingdom*. (2007) Thriller, starring Jamie Foxx and Jennifer Garner.

1.10 **Jackpot247**. **3.00** **The Jeremy Kyle Show** USA. (R) **4.05** Location, Location, Location. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.30 **The Grid**. **7.00** **Outrun the Sun**. **8.00** **The Morning Sun**. **9.00** **Weekend Kitchen**. **10.00** **Frasier**. (R) **10.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **11.00** **The Big Bang Theory**. **11.30** **The Big Bang Theory**. **12.00** **The Simpsons**. (R) **12.30** **Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.** (R) **1.30** **Coronation Street**. Live coverage from Doncaster and Wimborne. **4.00** **Come Dine with Me**. (R) **5.00** **Come Dine with Me**. (R) **5.35** **Come Dine with Me**. (R)

6.00 **Come Dine with Me**. Julia Smith Speed with Guy Martin. The motorcycle ace heads to Colwyn Bay, where he hopes to win one of America's oldest races, the Pike's Peak International Hill Climb, which ends more than 13,000ft above sea level. (R)

8.00 **Walking Through History: Norman Conquest of Pembrokeshire**. Tony Robinson heads to the south-west corner of Wales and one of Britain's finest coastal paths to find out why Pembrokeshire feels so English, even though it's more than 100 miles from the border. With its numerous castles and a fine cathedral, there are sure signs the Normans stamped their mark over the area. Tony's four-day walk traces the story of their conquest of the county, which he discovers was very different from the knockout victory at Hastings, involving a long, fiercely fought struggle.

9.00 **Film: The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel**. (2011) Premiere. Seven English pensioners looking for a fresh start are drawn to an advert for a hotel in the Indian city of Jaipur, and plan to spend their retirement there. They are forced to find a building dilapidated but are won over by the enthusiastic young manager, and each embarks on their own adventures in the city. Comedy drama, starring Judi Dench.

11.25 **Film: On the Read**. (2012) Premiere. Drama based on Jack Kerouac's novel, with Sam Riley and Garrett Hedlund.

2.00 **Hollyoaks**. (R) **4.05** Location, Location, Location. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 **Milkshake!** **9.45** **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles**. **10.20** **Gibraltar**: Britain in the Sun. (R) **11.15** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away**. (R) **12.15** **Alex Polizzi's Secret Italy**. (R) **1.20** **Film: The Santa Suit**. (2010) Comedy, starring Kevin Spacey. **3.00** **Film: An Old Fashioned Christmas**. (2010) A weather-worn woman visits an Irish earl in the hope he can help boost her granddaughter's literary career. Period drama sequel, starring Jacqueline Bisset and Catherine Steadman. **4.45** **Film: Gifts for Christmas**. (2010) Christmas drama, starring Marla Sokoloff and Mark Webber.

6.25 **Film: The Christmas Heart**. (2012) The people of a close-knit neighbourhood rally round when a local boy needs a heart transplant. A suitable donor organ is found just before Christmas and is transported to the hospital by plane, but an unexpected storm jeopardises its chances of being delivered on time. Drama, starring Teri Polo and Ty Ward.

8.05 **Film: The Case for Christmas**. (2011) Premiere. A greedy business mogul is still bitter about not receiving the presents he wanted as a child, so decides to sue Santa Claus. Needing legal representation, he finds a man turned to a lawyer desperately trying to balance his career and his responsibilities as a father. Festive comedy, starring Dean Cain, Rachel Blanchard and George Buza.

9.55 **5 News Weekend**.

10.00 **live Boxing: The MaxiNutrition Knockout**. Coverage of the final of the light heavyweight tournament from Glow in the Bluewater Shopping Centre in Kent, featuring Bob Alisafe v Travis Dickinson.

12.00 **Gotham**. Gordon and Bullock go in search of a hitman targeting council members, seemingly in an attempt to sway a vote on the development plans for the Arkham district. (R) **12.55** **SuperCasino**. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10** **The Gadget Show**. The team investigates technological applications of exoskeletons, with Jon Bentley meeting Claire Lomas, who was the first paraplegic to walk the London Marathon in a robotic suit. (R) **4.00** **House Doctor**. Ann Marie and Crystal Appleby look back over highlights from the series, including a two-bedroom semi that smelt of dogs and was full of dolls. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three **7.00** **World's Craziest Fools** **7.30** **International Rugby Union** **8.30** **Great Movie Mistakes IV: When You Wish Upon a Star**. **10.30** **Bad Education** **11.00** **Family Guy** **11.50** **Life Is Toft** **1.45** **Sweat the Small Stuff** **2.15** **Snow, Sex and Suspicious Parents** **3.45** **In Deep 4.00** **Close**

BBC Four **7.00** **Swarm: Nature's Incredible Invasions** **8.00** **Maps: Power, Plunder and Possession** **9.00** **Inspector Montalbano** **10.40** **Top of the Pops: 1979** **11.10** **Timeshift: Mods, Rockers and Holiday Mayhem** **12.10** **Top of the Pops: The Story of 1978** **1.00** **Country at the BBC 2.00** **Lionel Richie – Dancing on the Ceiling** **3.00** **Maps: Power, Plunder and Possession** **4.00** **Close**

ITV2 **12.00** **Film: Honey** (2003) **2.00** **Film: The Little Vampire** (2000) **3.50** **You've Been Framed**. **4.50** **You've Been Framed: The Next Generation** **5.50** **Film: Valiant** (2005) **7.25** **Film: Father** **9.45** **The X Factor** **10.45** **Coronation Street** **11.15** **Film: The Horsemans of the Apocalypse** (2009) **1.10** **The Professionals** **2.10** **Cheers** **2.40** **Movies Now** **2.50** **TV4 World Kitchen** **2.00** **ITV3 Nightscreen** **2.30** **TeleShopping**

ITV4 **11.40** **Kojak** **12.45** **Live Snooker** **1.55** **Highway Patrol** **5.40** **Room 101** **6.45** **Lewis** **7.00** **Snooker** **8.00** **Room 101** **9.00** **Midsummers Murders** **11.00** **A Touch of Frost** **12.40** **Bonita Girls** **1.35** **World Kitchen** **2.00** **ITV3 Nightscreen** **2.30** **TeleShopping**

Film4 **1.10** **Goodnight Mister Tom** **3.20** **Film: 1914** **1.45** **Get Out** (1987) **5.00** **His Wife, 49** **6.35** **Room 101** **8.00** **Room 101** **9.00** **Midsummers Murders** **11.00** **A Touch of Frost** **12.40** **Bonita Girls** **1.35** **World Kitchen** **2.00** **ITV3 Nightscreen** **2.30** **TeleShopping**

4.45 **Rude(ish) Tube Shorts** **5.00** **How I Met Your Mother** **6.00** **the Big Bang Theory** **7.00** **Room 101** **8.00** **Room 101** **9.00** **Room 101** **10.00** **The Horsemans of the Apocalypse** **11.00** **The Professionals** **12.05** **How I Met Your Mother** **1.05** **Rules of Engagement** **2.00** **The Cleveland Show** **3.30** **Charmed** **4.15** **Smallville**

Film4 **1.00** **The Death and Life of Charlie St Cloud** **2.00** **2.55** **I Wanna Hold Your Hand** (1978) **4.50** **One Night in Paris** (2011) **7.00** **Stormbreaker** (2006) **9.00** **Shooter** (2007) **11.25** **From Dusk Till Dawn** (1996) **1.30** **Machete** (2010) **3.45** **Close**

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CHOICE



Sue Perkins

The Mekong River with Sue Perkins (BBC2, 8pm)

It must be nice being a celeb. If they want a holiday, they don't need a travel agent – they can simply check in with a TV network instead, who are more than likely to pack them off to some exotic, far-flung destination. Mind you, once there they often earn their keep. This latest star-based travelogue sees comedian and Bake Off host Sue jet off to Southeast Asia, where she explores the lives of people who live on the banks of its longest river. She begins in Vietnam, where she sells noodles and farms prawns, before taking a sombre trip to Cambodia, to talk to one of the survivors of Pol Pot's genocide. There's also a look at how a whole village pins its survival on a single freshwater lake.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.25** Remembrance Sunday: The Centenary. **12.25** Sunday Politics. **1.40** BBC News; Weather. **1.55** FA Cup Final Score. **4.20** Songs of Praise. **5.00** Life Stories. (R) **6.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.30 **Countryfile.** In an extended programme for Remembrance Sunday, Matt Baker visits a subterranean network carved out by Allied troops in the chalk quarries of Arras. Ellie Harrison reveals the iron harvest of bombs still scattered across the fields today and Tom Heap retraces a great-uncle's journey from university to the trenches. John Craven discovers how tractors were adapted to make the world's first tanks and Adam Henson finds out how man's best friend became his greatest ally when dogs were trained for frontline duties by the British Army. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

7.45 **Strictly Come Dancing: The Results.** Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman reveal who is in the dance-off, with the losers missing out on the chance to perform at Blackpool Tower Ballroom. Plus, Katherine Jenkins performs.

8.30 **Formula 1: The Brazilian Grand Prix.** Suzi Perry presents the key moments from Interlagos in São Paulo, where the 18th and penultimate round of the season took place. Sebastian Vettel comfortably won the race here last year, but the reigning world champion has endured a difficult campaign and only has one further race before he leaves Red Bull for Ferrari. Commentary by Ben Edwards and David Coulthard, and analysis by Eddie Jordan.

10.00 BBC News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman and guests review the latest Premier League action, including Sunderland v Everton and Swansea City v Arsenal.

11.50 **The Apprentice.** Alan Sugar challenges the teams to organise coach tours, giving them two days to persuade mentors to part with their cash and take day trips to tourist attractions outside London. (R)

12.50 Film: *Lymelife*. (2008) **2.20** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.25 BBC News.**

BBC2

9.00 The Football League Show. (R) **9.40** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.10** Exploring China: A Culinary Adventure. (R) **12.10** The A to Z of TV Cooking. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** International Rugby Union. **2.00** Live tennis: ATP World Tour Finals. The afternoon session on day one from the O2 in London. **5.00** Flog It! Trade Secrets. **5.30** Remembrance Sunday: The Cenotaph.

6.30 **MOTD: FA Cup Highlights.** Manish Bhagnani presents action from the last first-round matches, as the non-league sides aimed to make their name for themselves and book a place in the second round.

8.00 **The Mekong River with Sue Perkins.** New series. The comedienne and Great British Bake Off presenter embarks on a 3,000-mile journey along the Southeast Asian river, exploring lives and landscapes on the point of dramatic change. She begins in Vietnam, where she meets traditional river people caught up in a new capitalist revolution, before trying her hand as a noodle saleswoman and prawn farmer. Continuing to Cambodia, she is moved by the tale of a survivor of Pol Pot's genocide, before bonding with the residents of the village of Kuampang Pluk, whose survival depends on the bounty of Tonle Sap, the largest freshwater lake in Asia.

9.00 **Police Under Pressure.** Documentary following officers in Sheffield as they investigate two separate incidents of missing girls, both victims of grooming and sexual abuse.

10.00 **Rugby League: Four Nations Highlights.** New Zealand v England and Australia v Samoa. Action from the final round-robin matches at the Forsyth Barr Stadium in Dunedin, New Zealand, and WIN Stadium in Wollongong, Australia.

11.00 **Russell Howard's Good News.** The comedian offers his perspective on stories dominating the media, whether on television, online or in print, and he is joined by a guest with an amazing tale to tell. (R)

11.30 Film: *Alpha Dog*. (2006) Fact-based crime drama. Starring Emile Hirsch.

1.20 **Sign Zone: Countryfile.** (R) **2.20** Holby City. (R) **3.15** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 **CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge.** **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.05** Cannimals. (R) **7.10** Cannimals. (R) **7.20** Signed Stories: A Bear's Story. (R) **7.25** Mr Bear: The Animal Show. (R) **7.50** Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.15** Horrid Henry. **8.30** Big Time Rush. **9.00** The Aquabats! Super Show! (R) **9.25** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** ITV News; Weather. **11.35** Film: *Carry On Screaming*. (1966) **1.25** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **2.15** The Unforgettable Lou Dawson. (R) **2.45** The X Factor. (R) **4.30** Downby Abbey. (R) **5.35** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. (R) **6.45** **ITV News: Weather.**

7.00 **Keep It in the Family.** Former X Factor stars Alexandra Burke, Joe McElderry, Ryan Clark-Stacy, Solomon, Jedward and Ruth Lorenzo help contestants win big prizes. Bradley Walsh hosts.

8.00 **The X Factor Results.** Dermot O'Leary reveals who is safe and who has scored the lowest number of votes, and there are performances by some of the biggest names in the charts.

9.00 **Downton Abbey.** Preparations are underway for Rose's wedding, but family tensions on both sides threaten to derail proceedings. Edith's arrangement with Marigold is happily working out, but how long can she and Cora conceal the truth from Robert? Deneker reveals an unexpected side to her personality, which causes trouble for more than one of the servants. With the war memorial due to be unveiled, Mrs Patmore is still upset. Mrs Patmore has something up her sleeve. Bradshaw comes to a heart-wrenching decision, and the storm clouds that have been gathering over Anna and Bates finally burst. Last in the series.

10.30 **ITV News: Weather.**

10.45 **Broadmoor.** Part one of two. The wives of patients in Berkshire's high-security psychiatric hospital, which is home to some of the nation's most dangerous men. (R)

11.45 **ITV - Cup Rugby Union.** Highlights of the second round of pool matches in this season's competition.

12.40 **The Store.** **2.30** Motorsport UK. **3.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **4.05** **ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

6.45 **How I Met Your Mother.** (R) **7.10** **How I Met Your Mother.** (R) **7.35** **FIM Superbike World Championship.** **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Jamie's Comfort Food. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.35** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **3.00** **Film:** *Addams Family Values*. (1993) Comedy sequel, starring Anjelica Huston and Raul Julia. **5.00** **Channel 4 News.** **5.30** **American Football Live at Wembley.** Jacksonville Jaguars v Dallas Cowboys (Kick-off 2pm).

8.00 **Speed with Guy Martin.** The motorcycle racer leaves his comfort zone as he attempts to set a world speed record for a hovercraft. These machines are notoriously difficult to control, so to learn the basic skills needed he's put through his paces by Royal Marines in a military training operation. To achieve his goal, Guy will need to stay over 86mph for a kilometre, but at these speeds, because of the hovercraft's inherent instability, even the most experienced pilots can lose control – and the worsening weather makes things that much more challenging.

9.00 **Homeland.** Carrie tries to earn the trust of a disgruntled Quinn and Sam picks out a new suspect and Saul catches a break when he spots a family star on his way out of town. CIA drama starring Claire Danes, Rupert Friend, Nazanin Boniadi and Mandy Patinkin.

10.05 Film: *Contraband*. (2012) Premiere. A reformed international smuggler must return to his old line of work to save his family from a ruthless drug lord. Crime thriller, with Mark Wahlberg and Kate Beckinsale.

12.15 **Alan Carr: Chatty Man.** Derren Brown talks about his 2015 live tour. Sue Perkins reveals details of her new documentary series, and ventriloquist Nina Conti drops in ahead of her new DVD release. (R) **1.00** **American Football Live.** Green Bay Packers v Chicago Bears (Kick-off 1.30am). Coverage of the week 10 clash from Lambeau Field, where the NFC North rivals face each other. **4.45** **The Grid.** (R) **5.15** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. Redecorating the kitchen and dining room of a home in Kent. (R) **5.35** **Countdown.** Sian Williams is in Dictionary Corner. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 **Milkshake!** Peppa Pig. **6.05** **Roary the Racing Car.** (R) **6.15** **Angelina Ballerina.** (R) **6.30** **Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures.** (R) **6.35** **Seaside Antics.** (R) **6.40** **The Mr Men Show.** (R) **6.55** **Chloe's Postbox.** (R) **7.05** **Our Little White Van.** (R) **7.15** **Pyjama Party.** (R) **7.25** **Make Way for Noddy.** (R) **7.35** **Patrol.** **7.50** **Little Princess.** (R) **8.05** **The Adventures of Bottle Top Tom and His Best Friend Corky.** (R) **8.20** **Wanda and Ben.** **8.30** **Zack and Quack.** **8.45** **Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** (R) **9.00** **Jelly Jamm.** (R) **9.20** **LazTown.** (R) **9.45** **Pip Ahoy!** (R) **10.00** **Milkshake!** (Monkey). (R) **10.05** **Mr Men.** (R) **10.20** **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** **10.55** **News Special: Remembrance Sunday 2014.** **11.05** **Access.** **11.15** **Criminals: Caught on Camera.** (R) **11.40** **Police Interceptors.** (R) **12.40** **Film:** Getting Even with Dad. (1994) Family comedy, starring Macaulay Culkin and Ted Danson. **2.50** **Film:** *Cats & Dogs*. (2001) Comedy, starring Jeff Goldblum. **4.30** **Film:** *The Polar Express*. (2004) Animated adventure, with the voice of Tom Hanks.

6.20 **5 News Weekend.**

6.25 **Film:** *Superman.* (1978) A fledgling superhero crash-lands on Earth after evading his home planet and is taken in by an elderly couple who raise him as their own. But with adolescence comes a greater understanding of his superhuman powers, leading to his rebirth as a crusader for justice and defender of the American way of life. Comic-strip adventure, with Christopher Reeve. Edited for language, flashing images and product placement.

9.00 **The MTV EMA 2014 from Glasgow.** Nicki Minaj presents the Europe Music Awards from the Hydro in Glasgow, featuring performances by the host, as well as Enrique Iglesias, Ed Sheeran, Calvin Harris and Ariana Grande. Katy Perry leads the nominations and is up for seven awards, with Ariana Grande shortlisted for six and 5 Seconds of Summer and Pharrell Williams having five each.

11.00 **Most Shocking Moments in Pop.** A countdown of outrageous events and scandals from the pop world, including Miley Cyrus's performance at the 2013 VMAs and Britney Spears shaving her head. (R)

1.50 **SuperCasino.** **3.10** **Benidorm ER.** (R) **4.00** **House Doctor.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 **Doctor Who: The Ultimate Guide**

7.15 **Doctor Who: 8.15 Film:** *Shanghai Knights* (2003) **10.00** **Family Guy 12.00** **Life Is Toff 11.15** **American Dad! 12.00** **Sweat the Small Stuff 12.30** **The Revolution Will Be Televised 1.00** **Snow, Sex and Suspicious Parents 2.00** **Life Is Toff 2.30** **People Like Us 3.30** **Life Is 4.00 Close**

BBC Four

7.00 **The Great War 8.20** **West Coast Otters 8.30** **Sounds of the 70s 2 New Wave – Hit Me with Your Rhythm Stick 9.00** **Brian Cox: Space, Time & Videotape 10.00** **Cosmos: A Personal Voyage 10.50** **The Day After Tomorrow – Into Infinity 11.40** **The Day the Universe Changed 12.30** **The Heart of the Universe – How Nashville Became Music City USA 2.00** **Country Queens at the BBC 3.00** **John Denver: Country Boy 4.00 Close**

ITV2

2.15 **100% You've Been Framed 3.15** **You've Been Framed! Top 100 Kids 4.20** **Film:** *Despicable Me* (2010) **6.10** **Film:** *Jurassic Park III* (2001) **8.00** **Scorpion 9.00** **The Xtra Factor 10.30** **Film:** *Little Man (2006) 11.55* **Film:** *Born to Raise Hell* (2010) **1.20** **Jean-Claude Van Damme: Behind Closed Doors 2.20** **Tommy Cooper 2.50** **ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00** **Teleshopping 3.55** **ITV4 Nightscreen**

ITV3

3.00 **A Touch of Frost 5.00** **Film:** *Colombo: Murder with Too Many Notes* (2000) **4.00** **Lewis 5.15** **The One and Only Billie Black 6.20** **1.30** **An Audience with Brian May 7.15** **Film:** *The Life of David Gale* (2003) **2.00** **William and Mary 2.50** **Judge Judy 3.30** **ITV3 Nightscreen 3.00**

E4

3.55 **New Girl 5.40** **The Big Bang Theory 6.00** **Film:** *Trition's Gold* (2009) **7.00** **The Legend of the Inbetweeners 11.15** **Drifters 11.50** **Rude Tube: Utter Pranks 10.30** **Glue 1.50** **Film:** *Rooms of Engagement 2.40 **Rude Tube: Utter Pranks 3.35** **Hollywood***

Film4

1.00 **Diary of a Wimpy Kid** (2010) **2.50** **The Day the Earth Stood Still** (1951) **4.40** **A Knight's Tale** (2001) **7.15** **Pst Grau (2009) 9.00** **Fracture** (2007)

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Five-bedroom home is at head of cul-de-sac



A FIVE-BEDROOMED detached house at the head of a cul-de-sac, The Lawley, Halesowen, is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £279,950.

With double glazing and gas central heating it has an entrance hall with laminate floor, a lounge, large dining kitchen and patio doors to conservatory, utility room, cloakroom, bedroom one with wardrobes, bedroom two with laminate flooring, L-shaped bedroom three, bedroom four/study and bedroom five with a storage cupboard. There is a bathroom and a garage, drive and gardens. Contact Hicks Hadley on 01562 510440 or visit www.hickshadley.com



House has an apartment and a swimming pool



THIS detached house includes a stunning first floor open plan apartment and a swimming pool.

This property in Oldhall Road, Kidderminster, is for sale through Morris & Co at £745,000.

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HALESOWEN, Longmoor Road £825 pcm - Fees Large 3 bed mocklow style semi-detached property features 2 reception rooms, 2 double bedrooms (master with fitted wardrobes), 1 single bedroom, modern bathroom with L-shaped bath, garage, driveway parking for multiple vehicles, gas central heated and double glazed. Ideally located for Huntingtree Primary School. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Hagley Road £795 pcm - Fees 1ST MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE! An unfurnished detached house within close proximity of Halesowen. Briefly comprising of: 3 bedrooms, large lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom with separate w.c., driveway parking & garage, double glazing, gas central heating (new boiler). EPC: TBC



BIRMINGHAM, Orion Building £775 pcm - Fees FREE 1ST MONTHS RENT. A fantastic opportunity to rent a fully furnished apartment in the heart of Birmingham City Centre. This 1 bed modern property overlooking the Mailbox features open plan living with luxury kitchen with 24 hour concierge service, secure parking, double glazed and electric heating. Viewings highly recommended. EPC: TBC



AMBLECOTE, 41a/b/c High Street £775 pcm - Fees A fantastic opportunity to rent a new build home on a select development. Features 3 of generous size bedrooms (master with en-suite) finished to an exceptional standard. Featuring spacious lounge/dining areas, well appointed kitchens, downstairs WC, 3 bedrooms with family bathrooms & master bedroom with en-suite, 2 allocated parking spaces, front & rear gardens. These homes will not be available for long. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Stourbridge Road £750 pcm - Fees Well presented 3 bedroom semi-detached house with large driveway for multiple cars in this very popular residential area. Entrance Hall leading to large living room/dining area, fitted kitchen, large private rear garden with open fields at the top, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom and garage. EPC: E



NEW
HALESOWEN, Hollybank Grove £825 pcm - Fees Good sized semi-detached property situated in a cul-de-sac position close to popular schools and local amenities. Features 3 bedrooms with fitted wardrobes, 2 reception rooms, family bathroom, fully fitted kitchen. Off road parking, gas central heating and double glazed. This house has been newly redecorated and repainted. EPC: E



ROWLEY REGIS, Spring Vale Road £650 pcm - Fees 1ST MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE! An opportunity to acquire a well maintained traditional semi-detached property situated in a popular residential location within a quiet cul-de-sac close to local schools and amenities. Features a large living room, fitted kitchen with a double range cooker, W.C. 2 double & 1 single bedroom/study, bathroom with shower, driveway/garage. A lovely property not to be missed. Minimum contract 12 months. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, The Rookery £640 pcm - Fees Set in a lovely cul-de-sac and a highly sought after location. This 2 bedroom house features a modern fitted breakfast kitchen with appliances, great size lounge, double glazing, gas central heating, bathroom with shower, driveway parking for 2 cars and a large rear garden. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Wroxley House £625 pcm - Fees Luxury living in Hayley Green. This superb luxury ground floor apartment offering spacious accommodation including an open plan lounge/kitchen/diner, double glazing, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, a further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. EPC: B



HALESOWEN, Talbot Street £575 pcm - Fees Step inside this fantastic 3 bedroom terrace property. Renovated throughout within the last 6 months to a very high standard, featuring 2 great size reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, fully tiled bathroom with electric shower, gas central heating system. This property will not be available long. EPC: E



NETHERTON, Copse Road £575 pcm - Fees A semi-detached house that has been fully refurbished to a high standard comprising of: Hallway, front lounge, large kitchen/dining area, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, front & rear gardens with driveway & additional parking to rear. Solar panels installed saving up to 30% on electric bills. Available now. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Hoosen Close £575 pcm - Fees A delightful modern refurbished mid terrace house located within a desirable quiet cul de sac. Featuring a lovely refitted kitchen with electric oven/hob, fridge freezer and hotpoint washer/dryer. Gas central heating, large lounge with patio doors offering views across a mature herbaceous garden benefiting from a sunny aspect. 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, garage, parking space. Close to bus links to Birmingham. EPC: E



HALESOWEN, Haden Arch Court £575 pcm - Fees Contemporary living in Halesowen. This 1st floor spacious apartment above the archway, within walking distance to Halesowen Town Centre and buses, the apartment features gas central heating, double glazing, open plan living room, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with separate shower cubicle, allocated parking. EPC: B



CRADLEY HEATH, Station Road £550 pcm - Fees A newly decorated & carpeted 3 bedroom mid terrace house in this popular location minutes away from Old Hill train station. This spacious property has: 2 reception rooms, downstairs walk in shower room, modern fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms & 1 single. Private rear garden. On road parking. EPC: E



HALESOWEN, Bloomfield Street North £525 pcm - Fees Located on this popular road near Halesowen Town Centre and close to both Newfield Park Primary School and Windsor High School, is this well present mid-terrace property. The house comprises of: two large bedrooms, cosy lounge, large kitchen, house bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, low maintenance rear garden, on road parking. EPC: C



CRADLEY HEATH, Sutherland Road £525 pcm - Fees Close to Old Hill High Street this 2 bedroom semi detached family home features: fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, driveway and garage parking. This property is double glazed and gas central heated. EPC: TBC



NETHERTON, Golden Hillock Road £525 pcm - Fees Undergone a complete redecoration and situated on a corner plot. This beautiful semi detached house features a good size lounge, modern kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, modern bathroom with shower, downstairs WC, front, side and rear garden, gas central heating and double glazing. A must see property! EPC: D



OLDSWINFORD, Heath Lane £495 pcm - Fees Ideally located in the centre of Oldswinford for shops, transport links and Mary Stevens Park. This large and spacious end terrace house features 3 good size bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, downstairs bathroom, fitted kitchen, enclosed rear garden and on road parking. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Stour Court £500 pcm - Fees 1ST MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE! A great opportunity to rent this spacious and well proportioned ground floor apartment in a popular location. Large & airy living room, fully fitted kitchen with appliances, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom suite with shower. Outside there is allocated parking and communal gardens. EPC: E



CRADLEY HEATH, Hingley Court £460 pcm - Fees FREE 1ST MONTHS RENT! Freshly redecorated and in the centre of Old Hill. This lovely ground floor apartment features an open plan lounge/kitchen with a washer/dryer and a small fridge. 2 large double bedrooms, modern bathroom with shower, 1 allocated parking space behind electric gates. Not to be missed. Available now. EPC: TBC



CRADLEY HEATH, Wycherley Way £475 pcm - Fees A well presented unfurnished ground floor apartment briefly comprising: living room, 1 double bedroom with fitted wardrobes and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower. Benefits include gas central heating, double glazing, communal gardens, parking space. Close to local amenities. EPC: C

NX 300h has plenty to offer

By David Banner

The NX 300h has technology and refinement in spades but it's up against stiff competition. This is more of a case of what isn't new, because the NX is fresh off the drawing board as a little brother to the much-respected RX. If the RX 400h hybrid was the father of socially-acceptable SUVs, the NX 300h is a not-so-distant cousin.

The styling is as sharp as a supermodel's face, and you'll probably either love it or hate it. That's what Lexus wants, because you can't please everybody and it's better to please some people a lot than fade into the background. The NX is no shrinking violet, as long as you avoid silver. There's a completely new colour option that layers ordinary paint over a highly compressed layer of flake to create a deeper, more lustrous shine. Even in white the difference is obvious – and deliciously premium.

Choose anything above the basic S model and you'll benefit from winter-beating four-wheel drive. The NX is a bit of a Tardis, too, with 475 litres of boot space courtesy of a huge hidden compartment and enough rear legroom to let your kids have a game of boules.

There's also a space-saver spare wheel as standard – unique among the NX's rivals. But check this out for a practical fea-

ture: the bottle holder in the centre console has a high-friction base so you can open twist-cap drinks with one hand. Very neat.

There's also an induction charging pad that needs no wires to charge a compatible handset. You're basically driving the future.

For the most part the NX is high quality, especially the leathers. There are one or two small bits of Toyota-spec plastic but they're easy to ignore. The touch-pad computer interface is actually more intuitive than you might initially give it credit for, too.

The drive is impressively refined, with supple suspension, decent body control and super-smooth response from the hybrid powertrain. It's not that hard to accelerate gently away using just the electric motor, but on the other hand the outright performance is nothing Usain Bolt would get excited about. There's no two ways about it – it's pretty pedestrian. At least the seats are worth a postcard home. Big,

perfectly supportive and highly adjustable, the only caveat is for drivers who like their seat back very upright, at which point the forward-leaning anti-whiplash headrests become a pain.

The Mark Levinson stereo – exclusive to the Premier trim grade – is worth a mention too. It has special software to identify and compensate for the lost quality of compressed digital music, and as long as the source is hooked up via a wired connection, it's brilliant. Music played via Bluetooth doesn't benefit in the same way.

The NX has stiff opposition from its German arch-enemies, but it's more than good enough to win fans at the mid-range Luxury price of £34,495. Classic FM-smooth hybrid drive is a big selling point and the clever on-board tech is right on the money.

It's just a shame that so much of it is reserved for this £42,995 Premier range-topper.

But who would buy one? There are USPs for parents, business users, tech geeks and obviously people who've had enough of the usual German options. The NX is a clever car, and a lot of people should appreciate its comfort, gadgets and generally premium feel. This deserves to be the car that boosts Lexus' UK sales to the next level.

This car summed up in a single word: Advanced

If this car was an animal: It would be a chimpanzee. It's intelligent, versatile and well put-together.



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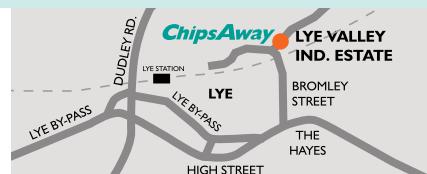
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Meriva has real appeal for family car buyers

By David Banner

It used to be so difficult. You wanted a vehicle with decent economy that could do the family duties, yet had something about it when you pressed the throttle pedal. Trying to square those requirements for a reasonable budget could tie even the most knowledgeable car enthusiast in knots.

These days things are a whole lot easier. If you want to know how easy, just go to a Vauxhall dealer and cajole them into lending you a Meriva 1.6 CDTi diesel. It's a car that's been steadily improved over the course of its lifetime, but replacing the old 1.7-litre diesel lump with a smaller but more modern, powerful and economical engine has given this particular Meriva real appeal for family buyers.

Developing a healthy 136PS, this Euro6-compliant motor serves up a supersized 320Nm of torque at just 2,000rpm, which lends it a hugely muscular feel. In fact this Meriva will get to 62mph in just 9.9 seconds and Vauxhall has worked at improving the quality of the six-speed manual gearshift so that changes are slicker and gear engagement more reassuring. Refinement at speed is a notable strong point, with the engine only really becoming vocal at around 4,000rpm, at which point you will have probably upshifted anyway.

Chassis dynamics have never really been a Meriva high point. The steering in the Meriva is accurate but decidedly synthetic in feel. Nevertheless, the car generally feels very substantial and reassuring to drive, with plenty of grip and safe, predictable handling. Ride quality is firm but the advantage of this is that body roll is very well controlled.

This facelifted second generation Meriva gets a revised grille, but the chrome accents that frame the front fog lamps aren't so obvious. The headlights seem to have soaked up much of the budget and now feature an 'eagle-eye' graphic. For the first time, LED daytime running lights and LED tail lights are available as an option. If you're in the mood to tick options boxes, you can also pay extra for some 18-inch alloy wheels.

The Meriva still differentiates itself from its many rivals via its rear-hinged back doors. The advantage of this design comes when entering and exiting the vehicle as the doors open to an angle of almost 90 degrees and you can step straight out unhindered. It also helps parents when they're strapping the kids in or fitting child car seats because there's no door in the way to manoeuvre around. The interior itself is based around the FlexSpace seating system which allows the rear seats to fold down and slide individually. Splitting the cabin on the plusher models is the FlexRail, a pair of metal runners between the front seats that various modular storage bins and arm-rests can be clipped to and slid along. It's all very clever but those who have a thing for plastics quality might feel that some parts of the Meriva's cabin – especially rearwards from the front seats – show clear signs of cost-cutting. Still, that's the case with many of its rivals. It goes with the territory at this price point.

Variations

Whereas you used to have legions of trim level variations to wade through in order to find the Meriva you wanted, with this 1.6-litre CDTi, things are a whole lot more straightforward. You either pay just over £19,000 and buy the S trim or you pay just over £21,000 and bag yourself the SE specification. The S isn't badly finished with an ESP-plus electronic stability control system, twin front airbags, an electric parking brake, a CD / MP3 CD player / stereo radio with USB and AUX-in socket, electric front windows, electrically adjustable and heated door mirrors, remote central deadlocking, front side airbags and door-to-door illumination.

Go for the up-spec SE version and you'll find refinements such as a panoramic glass sunroof, 17-inch alloy wheels, folding seatback trays and under-seat drawers, a trip computer, cruise control, curtain airbags, leather trim for the steering wheel and gear shifter and heating for both the seats and the wheel.

There are many MPV or SUV owners who have looked at the cost of petrol and diesel derivatives of the same car, done the calculations and decided that based on the amount of miles they do, they'd never justify the additional expense of the diesel variant. So they buy the petrol model and soon come to realise that the torque deficit you get with entry-level petrol engines requires you to flog them really hard to make progress. They look at their economy figures and then realise the error of their ways. They should have bought a car like this Meriva 1.6 CDTi.

Emissions are also kept well in check at just 116g/km which, like the economy figure, is even better than the lowly 1.3-litre CDTi diesel engine you can also have fitted in your Meriva.

Residual values ought to be strong as well, with many buyers being attracted to the Meriva range's best and most economical powerplant.



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New Corsa is a big deal

By Graham Breeze

Vauxhall this week unveiled the brand's most significant car in years with the arrival of a new Corsa.

The supermini is already the third best selling car in Britain but Vauxhall are clearly unhappy to be trailing behind Ford's Fiesta and have come up with a real option.

I've long been boring friends and work colleagues about the virtues of Ford's amazing 1.0 litre EcoBoost so today I'm feeling a little smug that Vauxhall has also recognised its strengths and come up with a genuine rival with a one-litre, three cylinder engine.

You can chose from either 89bhp or 113bhp engines – the 113 being the quickest model available though a VXR is on the way which will develop 200bhp.

The big news is that Vauxhall is so determined to take a slice of Ford's market that prices have been chopped and the 1.0 litre comes in £1,000 cheaper than the Fiesta with prices starting at just under £9,000.

From the outside there are no dramatic changes in appearance but it's under the bonnet that Vauxhall has concentrated efforts on producing improved performance, better fuel consumption, lower emissions and all at a lower price.

Corsa still comes in three and five door versions. The three door is a stylish looker while the five door will prove more popular with the small family buyer.

There are noticeable changes at the front with new headlamps, bonnet, grille and bumper derived from the Adam city car while inside there is a smart new centre

console, seven-inch touchscreen system and a more upmarket look. Vauxhall claim the inside is class leading and may just be right.

There's better ride and control thanks to a new lower suspension system bolted on to the basic platform and the 113bhp 1.0-litre three-cylinder turbo tested took just 10.3 seconds to get from 0-62mph.

Vauxhall claims fuel economy of 57.6mpg and 115g/km of CO₂ for the 113bhp version and 65.7mpg and 100g/km for the 89bhp model. A new 1.3-litre CDTi diesel is the most frugal, returning up to 88.3mpg with tax-free emissions of 85g/km.

Three new gearboxes – a manual, an automatic and an Easytronic – are available, with improved shift quality and providing greater overall efficiency.

The New Corsa is the first small Vauxhall to be available with the new six-speed, torque converter automatic transmission giving an increased number of ratios.

The new Corsa has a heated front screen – a first for Vauxhall – and £450 will give you an advanced parking system, complete with rear view cameras and side blind spot alerts.

Without testing the model it's hard to explain just how impressive the drive is. It's quiet around town or when being asked to perform and amazing technology means it pulls surprisingly well to reach top speeds.

There's enough room in the back for three passengers, though you would not be comfortable over long journeys, and the 285 litre boot is big enough for most things but not the golf clubs. The 60-40 split rear seats don't fold completely flat either.

The outgoing Corsa has been a sales phenomenon for Vauxhall and has been the company's best-selling car for many



‘It’s under the bonnet that Vauxhall has concentrated efforts.’

years, vying with Fiesta for the UK's Number One spot and topping sales charts in Scotland and Northern Ireland outright.

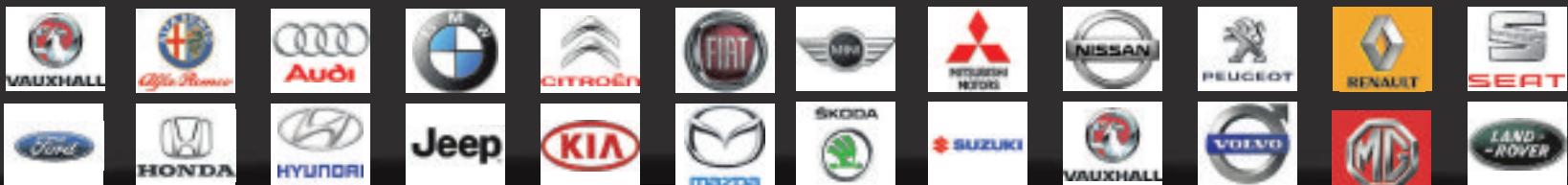
In its last full year, 84,000 were sold, and the UK is now the lead market for Corsa by a large margin – Germany was the second biggest market in 2013 with around 50,000 sales.

Make no mistake this fourth generation Corsa is a big deal for Vauxhall and a fortune has been invested to ensure it becomes the company's most important player. Friends and colleagues beware! I'm going to be preaching about the amazing three cylinder 1.0 litre Corsa engine for a very long time

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miles, pale blue. MoT June.
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central locking, PAS, Alloys,
CD, one owner, Superb.

£1,850.
07724 629285.

MAZDA MX5 sports convertible.
2003, MoT June 2015, beautiful
condition, manual 5 speed. £1,595.
01384 873411 or 07711 688220.

**FORD FIESTA 1.6 TITANIUM
PETROL 2010**
5dr, 36k miles, Dealer fsh, last
serviced August 2014, MoT
September 15, metallic silver,
top spec, 16ins alloys, bluetooth,
EU plus much more. Lady owner,
immaculate, one previous
owner, £2,750. Walsall 07930 392072.

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2004, diesel, automatic, grey,
ABS, EW, electric mirrors, air
con, FSH, alarm, long MoT,
central locking, PAS, Alloys,
CD, Immaculate

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07811 340605

PEUGEOT 107 URBAN
2010, £20,200 tax. Group 1
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paintwork, spotless interior, low
miles, MOT. This car is like new.
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07877 691166.

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2010, 38,000 miles, black,
MoT, a/c, air bags, MP3,
abs, fsh, CD, great drive
and value.
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Telephone 01902 844155.

MAZDA RX8
2005, 82,750 miles, nordic
green, abs, air bag, air con, fsh,
MoT, Bose system, inter-
changer, electric windows,
mirrors and sunroof. Rare
beast.

£2,500. MoT. 01902 747995.

NISSAN FIGARO
1992, petrol, mint green,
Automatic, full leather, 67,730
miles, 4 owners, MoT June
2015, vehicle report on it,
viewing recommended.
£4,000.

01299 489433.

PEUGEOT 207 2007, 72k miles,
4dr, silver, electric windows, a/c,
MoT, CD player, stereo, cambelt
change 2014, £2,499.00.
07947 872195.

VOLKSWAGEN GOLF PLUS 55
plate, 122k, service history, good
condition, full MoT £1,950.00.
01902 689370.

VOLVO XC90 2010, 36,850 miles,
metallic, oyster grey, FSH, auto,
1 owner, diesel, alloys. Winter pack,
4x4, £15,750. 07727 576273.

WV POLO 1.2E 56, reg. 98,
5dr, 67,000 miles, metallic silver, FSH,
MoT, 125,000 miles.

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Nice condition,
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07904 612854.

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FORD KA 02, 53,000 miles, MoT May 2015, good, runner, £550.00. 01902 45739 or 07853 255059.

FORD KA 2002, 80,000 miles, silver, MoT 16/7, MOT until June, Lady owner, Good condition, very reliable, £350.00. 07845 279745.

FORD KA COLLECTION, 9 months MoT, 69,500 miles, regularly serviced, 04 reg, £600.00. 01213 5575026 or 07825 706640.

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FORD PUMA, black, 51 reg, good condition, alloys, low mileage, full MoT, lady owner, genuine reason for sale, £600.00. 07955 467025.

JAGUAR S-TYPE, V6, 3.0L, 5 speed, 2001, reg, MoT until June, tow bar, alloy, great looks like new, £700. Telephone 01952 750878.

NISSAN MICRA VIBE, 2001, 68,400 miles, grey, MoT June, £650.00. 01384 936382.

PEUGEOT 106 1.1L XL Independence, 2001, P reg, MoT until June, MoT Sept 2014, first car, £531.00. 01902 655895 or 07785 132002.

PEUGEOT 205 silver, 1.6 hatchback, 2000, low mileage, excellent condition, air con, CD player, £950.00. 07757 885682.

PEUGEOT 807 executive HDi auto diesel, 2.0, 7 seater, pleasure to drive, reliable, £1,200. 07508 73523.

RENAULT CLIO BILLABONG, Black, 2007, MoT, 60,000 miles, £1,000.00. 07943 574131.

RENAULT SCENIC 1.6, 03 plate, burgundy, average miles. Good condition, 12months MoT. Ideal family car, £995.00. n.o. 0121 530 3219.

ROVER STINGER 2.0, 1995, 4 door, grey, MoT until June, working condition, £350.

Telephone 0121 550 6032.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 8V, 5dr hatch, Y reg 01, MoT, met silver, good condition, £600.00. 07943 574131.

VAUXHALL CAVALIER 1.6 ESTATE, 5dr, 1 owner, no rust, 89k, 6 months MoT, history, excellent condition, £450.00. 0746 712386.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 silver, 53 reg, 60,000 miles, short MoT, need a new clutch, 2 owners, £375. 07828 425486.

VAUXHALL CORSA SXI, 2002, 51,000 miles, 1.2L black, fsh, 10 months MoT, HPI clear, £1,445. 07961 513840.

VAUXHALL VECTRA SXI, Estate, 1.8, 1999, 100,000 miles, 6000 silver, used by painters so needs a clean! £375. 0.n.o. 07815 424132.

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TWO MORRIS MINORS, 1 blue 1957, 1 grey 1959, in need of restoration, £350 each or £600 for the 2. 01562 745711.

commercial vehicles

RENAULT KANGOO panel van, 1.4 dCi D70, 2004, CD, ply lined, MoT until June, £955.00. 07702 053230.

TRANSIT 350T 100, MWB, 2005, 12 months MoT, white, very good condition, £2000.00. 07774 601291.

VAUXHALL COMBO 1.7D, Manual 2000, 65k, FSH, MoT 30/09/15, good condition, SPARES, previous owner £1,550.00. 0121 550 9559.

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motorbikes

AJS 125E 2010. With top box. MoT September 2015, good condition, £550.00. 01902 256040 or 07847 899907.

LDV 400 CONVOY Pickup, 53 reg, 1.9 TD, 110bhp, 4x4, 1.9 TD, 110bhp, condition, £2,150. 07836 568903.

OLD BRITISH or classic motorcycle wanted for restoration, good, bad, incomplete, anything considered. 07563 896472.

TRIUMPH BONNEVILLE SE, 2009, 11,000 miles, black, excellent condition, £3,500.00.

Telephone 01902 432127.

TWIST X 50 MOPEDS, Kymco 59 plate, £375, BTM 11 plate, MoT'd. £475. Call 01902 498020.

TRW TRAC, race, track, one 600cc, one other, 2nd Yamaha, good spec, ready for next season. Ring for details 07787 955532.

ZX6R KAWASAKI, 1999, 7,000 miles from new, MoT, immaculate, £2,000. 07787 955532.

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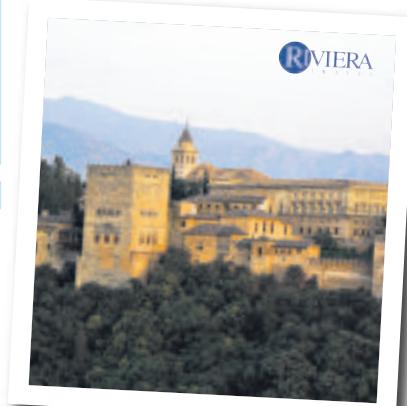
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Sellars score puts lid on match

**Villa U-21s 2
Wolves U-21s 1**

WOLVES Under-21s saw a lead evaporate as Villa's cubs came from behind to win at Burton Albion.

George Swan's 19th-minute header was cancelled out by Jack Grealish eight minutes later before Jerrell Sellars netted the 66th-minute winner.

Wolves went ahead when Swan rose to head home Connor Hunter's corner.

Grealish levelled with a shot after finishing well from just inside the area.

Villa went close again on 39 minutes when Grealish's deflected shot fell to Darren Bent, who blazed over.

Bent drove wide from an angle before he was brought down by keeper Jonathan Flatt for a 58th-minute penalty.

But Flatt, the current second-choice keeper to Carl Ikeme, got across well to palm away Bent's spot-kick struck high to his right.

Villa were undeterred however and scored a second when Bent set up Sellars and from an angle the winger finished well from just outside Wolves area.

Grealish almost made it 3-1 on 73 but his curling effort was saved.

**DK given a
Serge with
new player**

DUDLEY Kingswinford director of rugby Carl Douglas has been boosted with the news that second row Edlyn Serge has signed for the National League Three Midlands club.

The 30-year-old South African has been looking to play in Europe after previously turning out for Belhar in his homeland.

And Douglas is excited to have him on board. He said: "The signing of Edlyn is a big step forward for us."

DK sit one place off the bottom of the table with just one win from eight games, although Douglas saw some positives in the recent 27-10 defeat at Hinckley. "The team put an 80 minute shift in and worked hard from start to finish," he said.

Burton go for Old Hales to take points

OHHC 1sts 2 Burton 5

OLD Halesian Hockey Club Men's 1st XI suffered a heavy defeat against opponents Burton, who are joint second in the Warwickshire Midland 1s.

Burton conceded within the first two minutes of the game getting under way, and they knew they were going to have a fight on their hands, when the visitors doubled their lead early on in the match.

Even though they were 2-0 down, Hales were able to regroup and got a goal back before the half time break when their on-form Graham Knight found the net. The

Hockey

ball was played in hard to Knight, who angled his stick perfectly to lob the oncoming Burton goalkeeper.

The second half was a period to forget for Hales as they were torn apart by the Burton counter-attack.

Several quick goals left Hales 5-1 down, and facing little chance of making a comeback. Paul Woodall finally got a consolation for Old Hales, but the side were also suffering with injury woes towards the closing

periods.

OHHC 3rds 2 Shrewsbury 3

Old Hales welcomed table-toppers Shrewsbury to Ormiston Forge at the weekend.

Old Hales started brightly and soon took the lead thanks to a goal from Joe Thorne.

A second goal was soon added thanks to a short corner being well finished by Dan Millichap.

Shrewsbury, who realising their unbeaten start to the season was slipping away, started to apply pressure and scored two goals to make the score even at half

time. In an even second half where both teams had chances to score, it was Shrewsbury who took home the three points with a goal in the final seconds from a short corner.

In all Old Hales can be proud of their performance.

Other Results:

Dudley Ladies 7 OHHC Ladies 1sts 0

Walsall 0 OHHC 2nds 5

Goalscorers: Charles Palmer (3), Sam Kirby, Tom Bolton

Olton 0 OHHC 4ths 0

OHHC 5ths 0 Stratford 0

Gornal put up a fight to rescue the win

Gornal Athletic 3 Studley 2

GORNAL Athletic overturned a two-goal deficit against a strong Studley side to progress to the second round of the FA Vase.

And it was a double substitution in the second half that provided the impetus for the West Midlands Premier side's change in fortunes against their Midland League Division One opponents.

Studley, who had been on top for most of the match, looked as if they had done enough to claim their place in the draw for the next round when striker Josh McKenzie added the second goal of his brace on 70 minutes. He had given the Warwickshire outfit the lead from the penalty spot on 25 minutes.

However, the introduction of Grant Joshua and Tom Piggott provided the Peacocks with the boost they needed to claw their way back in the final quarter.

Ross Love stunned the visitors with two goals in as many minutes, with a superb 15-yard strike on 77 minutes, and a close range header on 79 minutes.

Gornal's turnaround was completed when substitute Piggott shot an 18-yard screamer in.

Berahino is backed for call-up

ALBION keeper Ben Foster has backed team-mate Saido Berahino for an England call-up this week.

Foster is expected to be named in Roy Hodgson's squad to face Slovenia and Scotland and he is backing in-form striker Berahino to join him. Foster said: "Without a doubt, Saido should (be included), he's the top English scorer in the league."

"He's got a great shout of being in. We're quite lucky that Saido is playing week in and week out for us and he's doing well. Not only does he score goals but he sets goals up."

"His general work rate is fantastic."

So whether he's in this squad or not, he's one for the future."

Taylor leads his side to a sweet victory

Old Halesian 68 Bournville 8

SKIPPER Rich Taylor led his team out for a must win game.

Hales immediately took the game to the visitors and stamped authority on the match. After two minutes Hales infringed to allow the visitors a penalty and early lead 0-3.

Winger Luke Smith found full back Chris Hooper out wide who beat the defence for the first try which he converted.

Centre Carl Robinson picked up the ball from Fitzgerald 10 yards inside the Bournville half and ran through several would-be tacklers for the second try, converted by Hooper.

On 12 minutes winger Warren Oliver fed fellow winger Luke Smith for his first try of the day.

The next score came from scrum half Nathan Jones who grabbed the all important fourth, and Bonus point try.

Bournville replied when their No.10 launched the perfect kick out wide for their winger to catch with ease and score a great try, unconverted.

Tom Jordan in the back row then got on the score board with a try which was converted by Hooper.

Bournville were then reduced to 14 players.

This gave Hales the opportunity for a lineout which was caught and driven over the line by second row Guy Field.

On 77 minutes Guy Field received a yellow Card, but this had no effect on the lineout as at the death a great take from Tom King saw skipper Richard Taylor force his way through for the last try of the game.

Hooper converted.

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Evens on
Heathens
making it
in 2015

NATIONAL League Speedway champions Cradley Heathens have only a 50-50 chance of coming to the tapes next season.

Heathens have lost the use of Wolverhampton's Monmore Green track in 2015 and have so far failed in their bid to secure a piece of land of their own.

Now the club are running out of time if they are to secure a place on track next season, with negotiations ongoing between several parties.

Chairman Nigel Pearson said: "We had a full day of meetings on Monday but we have been unable to conclude any business for next year. We acknowledge this is a worrying time for our supporters and as a management team we promise to do all we can to ensure Cradley come to the tapes for the 2015 season."

"I won't comment on potential venues for our home meetings because it would be unwise to do so at this stage. It isn't a simple, straightforward process when it comes to operating on a track which ultimately isn't our own."

"The new track project has been frustrating. If there is one area where we have so far failed as a team it is that - we've done five years and still haven't secured a track."

Kuszczak eyes up No.1 spot

NEW signing Tomasz Kuszczak insists he wants to be No.1 at Wolves.

The 32-year-old former Albion and Manchester United keeper has signed a contract until January to cover first-choice Carl Ikeme while Aaron McCarey recovers from a back operation.

Kuszczak spent last week training with Wolves after keeping himself fit at League One side Oldham since August following his release from Brighton at the end of last season.

"Competition is a good thing for everyone," he said. "Both of us have good experience, we can play in this division."

"I'm here to support Carl by pushing him and I'm going to fight for my shirt and try to be a part of this team."

"This will help me and him as well."

Burton beasts

Old Hales suffer heavy defeat

Page 39

Sweet victory

Bournville melts with onslaught of tries

Page 39



email: Chronosport@expressandstar.co.uk

Foxes' own goal hands Baggies the points

Leicester 0 Albion 1

FORGET about the quality, just count the points.

That was the clear message from the Albion camp after another priceless Premier League victory.

And more than 3,000 noisy travelling fans at the King Power Stadium seemed happy to agree.

There is no instant fix to the kind of problems that beset the club and the dressing room last term.

Irvine has, instead, opted for a back-to-basics approach to repairing the damage.

Football

And although there was nothing on Saturday to get the visiting supporters off their seats with unbridled excitement, there was enough on show against a limited Foxes side to generate a contented smile or two.

On Saturday they proved they have rediscovered the desire and togetherness to grind out a tight game and cash in on any slice of fortune that comes their way, such as the comical Esteban Cambiasso own goal that decided a drab game.

Such are the baby steps Irvine and Co are taking towards a restoration of order at The Hawthorns.

And at present, supporters who feared for the immediate future of the club in spring are buying into the plan.

The garden is far from rosy and Irvine would have arrived at the King Power Stadium with some familiar worries playing on his mind.

Events on the field would have done little to ease his concerns. The decision to omit Brown Ideye from the matchday 18 threw into clear focus niggling doubts among Bag-

gies staff about the Nigeria international's adaptation to life in England.

Albion are not a club who can afford a £10m record signing to fail to contribute in the longer term and, privately, heads are being scratched.

On Saturday Leicester did everything within their limited powers to cancel out Cambiasso's moment of misfortune, only to find Albion too resilient for them with Lee Scott pulling the strings in an understated manner at the heart of defence.

Cambiasso proved to be the key figure as he netted at the wrong end.

Tividale knocked for six

Tividale 2 Nuneaton 6

TIVIDALE were denied a mouth-watering Birmingham Senior Cup tie with Wolves as Nuneaton eased to a 6-2 victory in this first-round clash.

And it was three goals in five minutes just before the break that did the damage, handing the Conference club a four-goal lead at half-time.

Adam Walker opened the scoring with an excellent volley on 14 minutes with Ryan Smith adding a second 12 minutes later. The home side reduced the arrears when Leigh Downing fired past former Walsall keeper James Wren in the 34th minute.

A trip on James Arnson resulted in the Town player picking himself to score from the spot four minutes from half-time and further goals from Walker and Dane Griffiths ended Tividale's hopes.

The second half was more even, although Walker pounced to complete his hat-trick.

And the home side managed to have the final say when Lewis Taylor-Boyce turned and fired home 17 minutes from time.

We can finish top – Edwards

DAVE EDWARDS believes Wolves can finish in the top two after likening them to the 'Swansea of the Championship'.

"We think we have enough to be promoted in the top two," he said.

"Everyone in the dressing room believes we can do it. There isn't one team we fear or think are better than us."

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NO DEADLOCK FOR YELTZ IN REPLAY

Matlock 0 Halesowen 4

HALESOWEN destroyed Matlock in their FA Trophy replay, as they claimed a 4-0 victory in Derbyshire.

Ben Haseley also made it into the Yeltz record books, as he became Halesowen's highest scoring player in the competition with the two goals breaking the line.

Halesowen took the lead on 27 minutes, as Aaron Griffiths' attempted cross from 40 yards somehow flew up and then over the keeper, hitting the top right corner of the net to leave Matlock in a state of shock.

Matlock didn't really show any signs of getting back into the game after that. The Yeltz doubled their lead on 61 minutes as Haseley played the ball over the top of the Gladiators' defence and Iyeden Christie was allowed to run through and smash the ball past the stranded Jon Kennedy and into the net.

Record

Haseley then matched Halesowen's top scorer record in the FA trophy on 82 minutes as he nodded the ball from close range, and then he beat the record on 85 minutes, as a fantastic piece of team play resulted with him running through the defence and comfortably slotting the ball into the net.

Matlock fell apart on the 80th minute, and Halesowen should have won by more really, with Robert Thompson-Brown and Christie both going close in the final stages.

The Yeltz make the long trip to Blyth on November 27.

Football

15 for the second qualifying round.

FA Trophy 1st Qualifying Round
Halesowen Town 1
Matlock Town 1

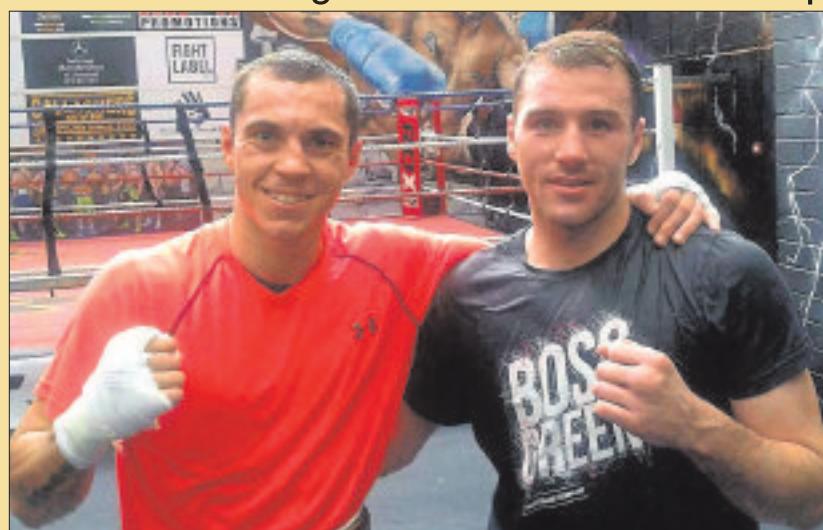
Defender Kris Green produced with a late leveller to earn Halesowen another chance in with an FA Trophy replay at Matlock.

Ben Haseley and Green had early efforts which came to nothing but the Yeltz struggled to make much further impression until their late rally.

Danny Holland gave the Gladiators a 51st minute lead with a simple tap in after Ashmore's 25-yard free-kick struck the post and he latched on for the second chance shot.

In a late flurry Aaron Griffiths delivered an 86th minute free-kick into the heart of the Matlock penalty area and the ball fell for Green to bundle home from close range.

Glover is trading blows with world champ



World champion Scott Quigg, left, is sparring with Tipton's Lee Glover who is preparing to take on Esham Pickering at Walsall Town Hall later in the month

TIPTON'S Lee Glover has been sparring with a world champion as he prepares to take on former European No 1 Esham Pickering at Walsall Town Hall later this month.

Glover travelled to Joe Gallagher's gym in Bolton to put WBA super bantamweight title holder through his paces in the training ring, writes Craig Birch.

Scott Quigg is getting ready for the fourth defence of his crown against

Hidekori Otake on November 22, with Glover set for battle the following Saturday.

The Tipton Slasher steps through the ropes with a former British, Commonwealth and EBU boss in Pickering, who is now entering veteran status at 38.

They will duel for as yet-to-be-determined featherweight belt, on the same night that Tyson Fury and Dereck Chisora go toe-to-toe in Lon-

don. Punters will watch the show at the Town Hall and then pour into the Pitch Sports Bar & Grill on Bridge Street to watch Fury-Chisora, with Glover determined to claim his own notable scalp.

Walsall's Martin Gethin will make a guest appearance. Tickets are £30 and £50 ringside and available from the Town Hall Box Office on 0845 111 2900. The title fight weigh-in will also be at the Pitch.



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